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UNICEF:
One out of three babies are born prematurely, annually



As SL commemorates UN Day against sexual exploitation...

First Lady Fatima Bio encourages survivors to be strong

As members disassociate themselves from vote of no-confidence...

SLANGO's Board remains intact



President Julius Maada Bio

President Bio: 94% of sexual exploitation victims are women & girls



First Ladies of Sierra Leone, Nigeria & Angola taking pictures during the event

By Yusufu S. Bangura

“I want to thank everyone of you that are here. And I want to say to the survivors, please, you cannot continue to be victims, you are not the victims, you are the survivors and the people who did what they did to you are the cowards and they are the ones who should be ashamed. It is not you that should be ashamed. Abusing a woman is one thing, but abusing a woman and knowing full well what you're doing, and you think you get away with it? No, that is wrong. I want you to know that the Government of Sierra Leone is with you, and we stand with you because we're going to do everything humanly possible to make sure you heal,” said First Lady Fatima Bio.

Cont. Page 3

Liberia: citizens hail Weah's concession in light of election results

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LOCAL NEWS

From Cover

First Lady Fatima Bio was giving the welcome address at the commemoration of the United Nations World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Sexual Exploitation, Violence, and Abuse of women and girls.

Fatima Maada Jabie Bio said the United Nations declares November 18 for leaders to exclusively raise awareness about preventing and healing women and girls from child sexual exploitation, abuse, and violence, which symbolises solidarity and a shared commitment to addressing those critical issues.

"We gathered here today because we wanted to stand in solidarity with our rape victims, women who were suffering sexual gender based violence. We also want to stand in solidarity with women who are suffering from SGBV silently, or they can't come forward. We want to say we are with you on this fight. Together, we will make the differences that we are supposed to make in our nation," she reiterated.

She recalled that in the last five years, President Bio has demonstrated what true leadership is all about, because he has not only given women the opportunity to thrive, but he had championed everything that involves women issues in the country and globally, and that by championing November 18, he had given women the voice to speak.

"President Bio is a man that believes in women, and a man that believes

As SL commemorates UN Day against sexual exploitation...

First Lady Fatima Bio encourages survivors to be strong

that women should be given the space to try. As your First Lady of this nation, I believe that I have proven that time and again because we don't work for politics, we work for humanity," she said.

She said they wanted to make November 18 as a global world day, therefore it was not only Sierra Leone that commemorated the day, but it was being commemorated globally.

She said November 18 is a global day for every one across the globe and thanked organisations that are providing care for survivors.

She said they wanted survivors to be healed and that they will continue to support them by making sure that when they leave by the end of the weekend, when they go back to their houses, their communities, they will go as free women and say they are not victims anymore, but Sierra Leoneans, who now have the power to speak.

She further encouraged them not to feel dejected and that they should not feel like they are victims because they move from victims and become people in society.

She drew an analogy from Madame Sara of Holland who was a victim, but has transformed herself from being a victim to being a survivor and now being an implementer.

She called on victims to pick a leaf out Sara's book and be women who are suffering in silence, yet they stand proud with their heads high and be determined that men cannot continue to make them victims for



the rest of their lives.

The Government of Sierra Leone, together with the First Lady of Nigeria and Angola, last Friday, commemorated the United Nations World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Sexual Exploitation, Violence, and Abuse of women and girls.

The United Nations declares November 18 "World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Violence.

In her own speech, the First Lady of Angola, Dr. Ana Dias Lourenco, emphasised the urgency in addressing child sexual exploitation, abuse, and violence, urging concerted efforts to support and protect vulnerable children.

Also, the First Lady of the Federal of

Nigeria, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, echoed similar sentiments, emphasising the importance of proactive measures, education, awareness, and advocacy in combating child sexual exploitation.

The Minister of Social Welfare, Melrose Kaminty expressed solidarity with survivors, shedding light on the country's efforts to combat sexual and gender-based violence, including President Bio's commitment to declare rape a public health emergency.

Highlighting the enactment of the Sexual Offences Act of 2012 and the establishment of a Sexual Model Court, she called for collective collaboration to reduce the global crisis.

She urged the use of technology to prevent online and offline offences and improves the criminal justice system.

UNICEF: One out of three babies are born prematurely, annually

By Ibrahim Kabba Turay



The Deputy Minister of Health Dr Mustpah, and the UNICEF Deputy Rep Indreiten

The Deputy Representative of UNICEF in Sierra Leone, Liv Elin Indreiten, has stated that one out of three babies are born prematurely, annually in Sierra Leone and globally, premature birth remains the leading causes of death of children under the age of five.

She made the above statement at the commemoration of the World Prematurity Day, 17th November,

2023, at Sierra Bay Hotel, Aberdeen in Freetown, with the Theme: "Small action big impact: immediate Skin-to-Skin care for every baby everywhere." She said the World Prematurity Day was a day dedicated to raising awareness about the challenges faced by infants born too soon and too small, adding that their commitment is to addressing the risks and consequences that small infants and

their families confront in Sierra Leone. "Approximately, fifteen million babies are born prematurely each year, equating to one in 10 children and over 100,000 die globally as a result of premature born," she said.

She further stated that UNICEF has been working with the Ministry of Health and their partners to scale up newborn lifesaving interventions

across the country over the past six years, adding that sixteen special care baby units have been set up in fourteen districts.

She continued that the impact of those efforts has been evident and that more than 40,000 small and sick babies have been admitted to those units since.

She said it was encouraging to see the steady increase in the survival rate of babies from 78 percent in 2017 to 88 percent in 2023.

The Deputy Minister 2, at the Ministry of Health, Jelicatu Mustapha, in her words, advised mothers that are faced with the challenge of premature born babies to be strong for their babies.

She said the Ministry of Health will continue to raise the awareness and that they were taking the issue of premature babies seriously, that was why they have established several units across the country.

She said they acknowledged and appreciated the immense contribution and collaboration of multiple donor and partners for their tremendous effort they have been doing in supporting premature babies in Sierra Leone.

LOCAL NEWS President Bio: 94% of sexual exploitation victims are women & girls

By Yusufu S. Bangura

President Julius Maada Bio has last Friday during the commemoration of the United Nations World Day on Sexual and Gender Based Violence at the State Lodge, Hill station in Freetown, told newsmen that 94% of victims of sexual exploitation are women and girls.

The United Nations declares November 18 "World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Violence."

"The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime estimates that 94% of victims of sexual exploitation are women and girls. Trafficking for sex alone has an estimated worth of about 99 billion United States Dollars, therefore we have to stop women and girls been used as articles of trade and provide healing for women who have been victims of exploitation and also to create the liberal policies that prevent these heinous crimes from happening in this country and around the world," he said.

President Bio said about a year ago, the country proposed to the United Nations a resolution declaring 18 November to recognize victims of sexual exploitation and violence, noting that the resolution was jointly supported by the Federal Republic of Nigeria and overwhelmingly supported by many other member states around the world.

He thanked Nigeria and all other countries that supported the

resolution as well as local and international partners that are still with them in lifting the veil of shame and pain and assuring victims that they have a space in the free world and that they are not alone.

"Therefore, we are gathered here today to commemorate the first anniversary of the passing of the resolution with silent prayers, and reflection and as testament to who we are as a people as exploitation is all it forms an offering healing to victims all over the world. As a nation, we have witnessed the love, the compassion and tenacity with which we the government have championed issues affecting women and girls, including the launch of the Hands of Our Girls in the city and the declaration of rape as an emergency, review of the Sexual Offences Act, the enactment of a Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act and Special Courts that deal with this matter," he said.

He said as the people centred government, they have the class size of barriers that women face and that they remain committed in eliminating them so that they can realize their fullest potentials, as his government is creating safe spaces for girls and women not just through the legal and judicial corridors, but through their human capital development ambition, and free quality education program they have introduced over five years ago.

"Today, I must say with pride that our girls have surpassed their peers in



President Julius Maada Bio

the sub region and the rate at which they finish primary and secondary school education, Sierra Leone is first in the sub region. Today, girls record most passes than boys in school and transition exams in this country. Today, girls enroll more for disciplines like engineering and mathematics than at any other time in the history of this country. In that light, we will continue to give free tuition policy, free tuition for girls studying STEM causes. Therefore, if we support our women and girls we will have a better nation, while 49.6%

of the global population are women in Sierra Leone, they constitute 51% of our natural population," he said.

He ended by calling on everyone in the country to pray for the victims because sexual exploitation and violence is still happening around the world, but together they can voice and together can create a powerful ring of support around them. He further called on interfaith committees to stand against all forms of child sexual exploitation and give the victims the comfort and healing that they so desperately deserve.

As members disassociate themselves from vote of no-confidence...

SLANGO's Board remains intact

Some members of the Sierra Leone Association of Non-Governmental Organization (SLANGO), who were alleged to have taken part in an extraordinary meeting and were signatories to a no-confidence vote against the substantive Board of the Organisation, have disassociated themselves from the said decision outright.

The said members have called for an immediate investigation into the issue as they claimed that their signatures were falsified.

Most NGOs and INGO have disassociated themselves from the clandestine decision.

"NGOs are concerned about the person that signed on behalf of their organizations without any iota of knowledge by their respective Country Directors and other colleagues of the

organizations. These NGOs consider this act as grave because it tends to defame their names. In this regard; therefore, we demand to know who signed this document on our behalf as soon as possible. We will further escalate this issue with our legal representatives if we do not get any feedback within working days effective Monday, 13th November, 2023."

A letter from one Country Director reads.

On November 10, some 235 registered concerned Local/International NGOs met at St. Anthony Hall and moved a vote of no-confidence in the SLANGO Board. The said 235 concerned NGOs/INGOs also resolved to suspend the recruitment of the National Coordinator.

But, according to a statement from the Board of SLANGO, the said information was misleading and was

meant to tarnish the hard-earned reputation of the organization.

"The claim of a vote of no-confidence by 235 NGOs is unfounded and lacks merit. *It is an attempt by some members who want to have their way and are bent on using smaller NGOs to achieve that* *SLANGO operates transparently, and such assertions are an attempt to tarnish the reputation of our organization."*

Contrary to the allegations, according to the board, there is no constitutional basis for the purported vote of no-confidence.

"Article 8 of the SLANGO Constitution, as misrepresented, does not support the claims made by the so-called Concerned Members. Our leadership is firmly committed to upholding the principles outlined in the constitution, ensuring accountability, and fostering cooperation among our esteemed members."*

They noted that the suspension of the National Coordinator's recruitment is a baseless decision by those, who do not represent the majority opinion within SLANGO.

They maintained that the recruitment process adheres to established procedures, and any delay caused by this action only hampers the progress of our organization.

"SLANGO remains steadfast in its mission to serve as a unified voice for the NGO community in Sierra Leone. We assure our members and stakeholders that we shall continue to uphold the tenets of our organization within the framework of our constitution. We urge all SLANGO members to disregard these false claims. Together, we will continue to strengthen our collaborative efforts and uphold the integrity of our organization."*

LOCAL NEWS

By Aiah Kaminjah

The lead sponsor of this year's National Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Fair (NYEEF), Sonoco, has awarded five thousand United States Dollars grant to top three winners of the entrepreneurship pitch competition held at the Bintumani Conference Centre in Freetown.

The NYEEF is a four-day event that commenced on Monday 13 November and ended on Thursday 16 November, 2023.

The event was launched by the Government of Sierra Leone through the Office of the Vice President, with the aim of connecting students and job seekers to employing organisations, for the purpose of placing them in decent jobs, and also to improve the competences of youth who choose entrepreneurship as a permanent employment.

During the presentation of awards, the Managing Director of SONOCO, Mark Pritchard, thanked the Government of Sierra Leone for organising the National Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Fair and for giving SONOCO the opportunity to serve as primary sponsor of this year's event.

The best three contestants received awards out of five constants, with the

SONOCO awards five thousand USD to best entrepreneurship pitch winners

first winner receiving 2,500 USD, second with 1,500 while third winners with 1,000 Dollars respectively.

He assured that the company will continue with its stride to create jobs and provide entrepreneurship skills for the youths.

Pritchard confessed that they have become one of the leading conglomerates operating in diverse areas of expertise, ranging from industry, construction, real estate, mining, logistics, among others, noting that, they take pride in their exemplary ethics and contribution to the economic and social development in the sub-region since it was founded in 1992.

"We are investing heavily in flour mill and it will be operational within twelve months with the objective of providing sufficient flour in the country and far beyond. We are also investing in Agro food sector by supporting local communities with food and beverages including Salam water and Salam juice which are available in the market," he said.

He emphasised that since the launch of the Bread Avenue at Wellington, SONOCO has been providing local



communities with job opportunities. He said since the launch of the Bread Avenue, their business has been going on well, adding that they have plans to expand their bakery to enhance mass production.

Alusine Kargbo, a law student at FBC and winner of the star prize, representing the Compact Agro Ventures, expressed his gratitude to Sonoco and the Government of Sierra Leone for the award.

He said the award is a testament that young people can achieve their potentials through hard work and with the right opportunity.

He said he and his business partners will wisely utilize the fund to expand their Compact Agro Ventures.

He maintained that their company will pride itself product sustainable and easily available to their target market.

In his keynote address during the launch of the program, Vice President Dr. Juldeh Jalloh formally welcomed the youth, participating organizations and businesses.

He stated that the visible impact of last year's NYEEF which constituted 500 youth to meet with 40 employers, was a driving force for this second edition.

He maintained that the program was in line with President Bio's aspiration to create 500,000 jobs in five years, to address the address employment challenges.

Youth jailed 12 months for house breaking

By Yusufu S. Bangura

After spending 11 months on remand, 30-year-old building contractor, Karim Komneh, has finally been sentenced to 12 months imprisonment by Justice Monfred Sesay of the Siaka Steven Street High Court in Freetown after he pleaded guilty to the offense of house breaking and larceny.

The convict was charged with one count indictment of house breaking and larceny contrary to Section 26 (1) of the Larceny Act 1916.

State prosecutor, Aruna Jalloh, alleged that the convict on the 14th December 2022 in Freetown broke into and entered the dwelling house of Abdul Aziz Koroma and stole his property, all to the total value of N18,110.00

After he pleaded guilty to the offense, Jalloh told the court that on the day of the incident, the complainant left his house at Kabba Road, Bathurst Village, to attend a wedding and in his absence, the accused broke the window to the



Siaka Steven Street High Court building

complainant bedroom and gained access into the room and stole his personal property.

He said after the incident, 8-year-old boy, Joshua Bangura, who saw the convict entering the room, informed the complainant about the conduct of the convict. He said the convict was later arrested, investigated charged to court.

He said the complainant was not in court during the proceedings and that the items were not retrieved from the convict.

After giving the brief fact of the matter, the convict pleaded with the Bench to temper him justice with mercy, stating that while in custody he learnt that doing bad is not good. He added that he is the

breadwinner of the family as he has an 8 month-old baby who needs his father.

However, Lawyer Randy S. Bangura from the Legal Aid Board made a plea of mitigation on behalf of the convict, noting that the convict is a first time offender of the law and that he is a very young man with brighter future ahead of him.

She further said the convict needs a second chance to make good use of his life, and pleaded with Justice Sesay to temper justice with mercy on the convict while giving down his judgment.

He added that the convict did not waste the court's time by answering to the offense on his first appearance before the High Court.

Lawyer Bangura continued that the convict has been in custody for over ten months.

Meanwhile, Justice Sesay advised the convict to make good use of his age because as a young man he should engage in things that will benefit him, but not to engage in things that will destroy his future.



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Tricycle rider in court for allegedly assaulting police

By Elizabeth J. Kamara

40-year-old Santigie Fofanah, a tricycle rider made his second appearance before Magistrate Santigie Bangura of the Pademba Road Court No.3 in Freetown.

The accused person is standing trial on two count charges to wit assault on police and occasioning actual bodily harm.

It was alleged that the accused on Monday, 29th May, 2023, at PZ, Western Area in Freetown, assaulted Police Constable 17205 Ganda, whilst on due execution of his lawful duty.

It was further alleged that on the said date and place the accused person assaulted the complainant in a manner thereby occasioning him actual bodily harm.

Assistant Superintendent of Police, Isatu Baba Musa, led the prosecution witness No:4, Sergeant 9527 Safie Conteh attached to the Criminal Investigations Department [CID] Central Police Division.

The witness recognised the complainant and the accused person in the duck.

She recalled on the 29th May, 2023, at the said office when the accused person was arrested and brought to the police station, together with the

complainant.

She said by then the complainant's eyes were swollen and surrounded with blood.

She said the matter was allocated to her for investigation and that she prepared police medical request form for the complainant while she detained the accused person on the following day.

She said the complainant returned with the endorsed medical request form.

The medical request was form was tendered in court to form part of the court records.

She said she obtained statement from the complainant and his witnesses on the 31st May 2023.

She said herself and Sergeant 9823 cautioned and questioned the accused person in Krio and recorded the interview in English.

The witness statement was tendered in court to form part of the court records.

The prosecution has closed their case while the defense counsel promised that on the next adjourned date he will furnish the court.

Magistrate Santigie Bangura refused bail and adjourned the matter to the 4th December 2023 for further hearing.

Malicious damage: Magistrate Kekura to decide couple's fate

By Elizabeth J. Kamara

Magistrate Sahr Kekura of the Ross Road Court No.1, has adjourned the matter involving the Inspector General of Police versus Yeabu Conteh and her husband, Mohamed Kanu, for ruling.

Magistrate Kekura made the disclosure after the police prosecutor, Sergeant Mamuntu Monica Turay, told the court that she had closed her case.

Yeabu Conteh and her husband, Mohamed Kanu are before the court on a case file for conspiracy and malicious damage contrary to Section 52 of the Malicious Damage Act of 1816.

Police records showed that on Wednesday 25th January 2023, at No.10 Harding Street, Rokupa, Wellington in Freetown, the accused persons conspired with unknown persons to commit felony, to wit malicious damage.

On the same date and place, the

accused allegedly maliciously damaged eighteen corrugated iron sheets, and other valuables worth seven hundred and twenty nine thousand Leones (Le 7, 29000) , belonging to Foday Francis Bangura.

The case file contained abstract report, photo photographs and a final report written by the police.

Prosecution led six witnesses including the formal witness, the scene of crime officer (SOCO) and Police Exhibit Clerk.

The matter was mentioned for further hearings but due to some reasons, Sergeant Mamuntu Monica Turay intimated the Bench that she inherited the file from Sub-Inspector Isatu Bangura.

Defence Counsel, Randy S. Bangura said he relied on the evidence made by his client to the police.

Magistrate Kekura adjourned the matter to the 23rd November 2023 for Judgement.

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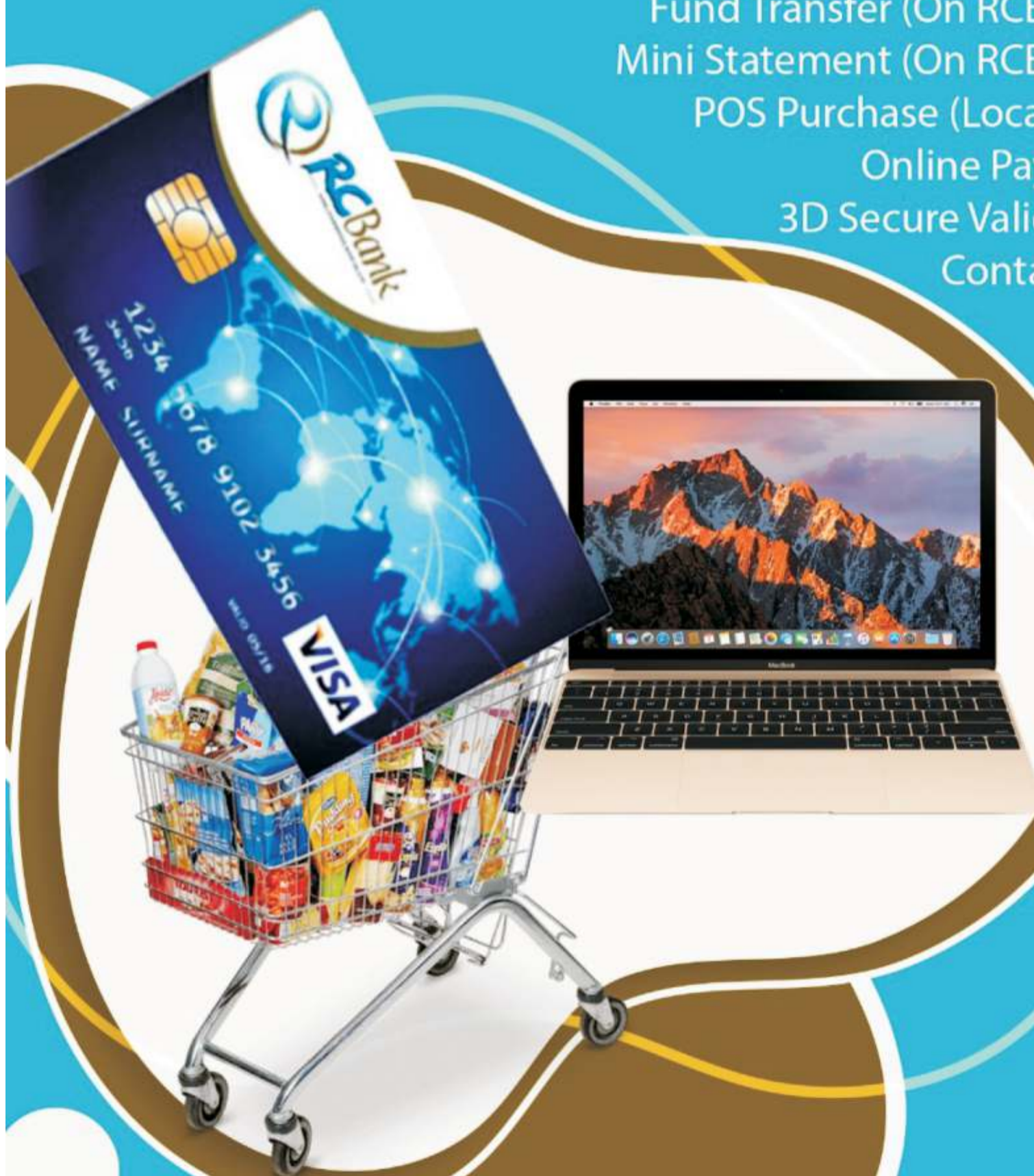
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Invitation for Bids Mott MacDonald SL Limited

Procurement Number: MMSL/SSEIP2/1088.27

Mott MacDonald Sierra Leone Limited, has allocated funds from FCDO for the procurement of 400 units of Wind-Up radios 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.

Bidding is open to all suppliers who can demonstrate experience and the capacity to deliver 400 units of Wind-Up radios.

Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the address below between 09.00 am and 5.00 pm from 16th – 24th November 2023. Bidding documents can be collected for free at the address below.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 27th 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
- Demonstrates experience to deliver similar products and provide sample of Wind-Up radio.

Bid envelopes must be sealed and clearly marked "RFP 1088.27 - Wind-Up radios - Sierra Leone".

- The detailed specifications, unit price, total price including 15% GST shall be quoted in SIERRALEONE NEW LEONES.
- The period of bid validity shall be 90 days from the closing date of submission of bids.
- Delivery of goods to MMSL shall be within 4 – 6 weeks upon notification of award.

Bids will be opened on Monday 27th 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
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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

**COTE D'IVOIRE, LIBERIA, SIERRA LEONE, GUINEA
(CLSG) TRANSMISSION COMPANY**

ASSIGNMENT TITLE: CONSULTANCY FOR THE DESIGN - AND POSSIBLY IMPLEMENTATION - OF THE WHOLESALE MARKETING OF THE EXCESS CAPACITY OF OPGW ON THE TRANSCO CLSG NETWORK

Sector: Energy
Financing: TRANSCO CLSG resources
Ref. REQ: CS/ 001-11/2023/GMO
Publication date: 15/11/2023
Submission deadline: 15/12/2023

TRANSCO CLSG is a Supranational Company governed by an International Treaty signed by the Head of States of the Republics of Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Guinea, owning a 1,303 km of 225kV transmission line linking the four countries with Twelve (12) associated substations in the four countries. The network was financed through a funding received from the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the European Investment Bank and the KfW, and also from Capital provided by the Governments of the four CLSG countries. The construction phase is 99% completed, and operation phase has started.

TRANSCO CLSG intends to use part of its financing for the recruitment of a consultant to assist TRANSCO CLSG in the design - and possibly implementation - of the Wholesale Marketing of the excess capacity of OPGW on the TRANSCO CLSG Network.

The objective of the consulting services is to support TRANSCO CLSG in the design - and possibly implementation - of the wholesale marketing of the excess capacity of the Optical Ground Wire (OPGW), which is being installed on the TRANSCO CLSG interconnection line between Côte d'Ivoire-Liberia-Sierra Leone-Guinea. TRANSCO CLSG OPGW is designed with 48 single-mode optical fibers, for a maximum wavelength of 1,550 nm. Annex 1 provides the characteristics of the OPGW. It is expected that the wholesale marketing of excess capacity (which is estimated to be 40 fibers, while the other 8 fibers are reserved for TRANSCO CLSG own needs) will be carried out using an open- access method, potentially with the establishment of a public-private partnership (PPP). The consultancy will include a legal, regulatory, technical, economic and financial analysis, and will reflect the best international practices in force and will allow TRANSCO CLSG to choose an optimal structuring option for the wholesale marketing of excess capacity of the OPGW. The consultancy might also include support for the implementation of the selected marketing structure, as described in the optional Component # 2 of the TOR.

The duration of the assignment (component 1) will be for twenty (20) weeks.

The services to be provided shall include but not necessarily be limited to the following:

The Consultant will carry out the mission for TRANSCO CLSG in consultation with all the public and private actors concerned by the project. As part of this technical assistance mission, the Consultant will carry out the following activities on behalf of TRANSCO CLSG:

Component 1: Develop a strategy and business plan for the marketing of excess capacity of Optical Ground Wire available on the TRANSCO CLSG's network.

Component 2 (optional): Support the effective implementation of the wholesale marketing of excess capacity of the OPGW on TRANSCO CLSG network: drafting of the international tender documents, assistance in the selection process, and training. The component 2 is optional and will be implemented at a later stage.

TRANSCO CLSG now invites eligible Consulting Firms to indicate their interest in providing the services described above. Interested consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services, including technical experience in similar assignments, qualifications of the firm in similar missions and staff experience key.

The firm should possess the following minimum qualifications:

The Consultant selected (firm or consortium) should have general experience in the field of Fiber optic market assessment and development, with at least three (3) contracts executed during the last ten (10) years for studies on the commercialization of Fiber optic services in developing countries.

The firm or consortium should demonstrate the current availability of its experts who would be required for the Fiber optic market studies, including commercial experts, economists, financial analysts, telecom engineers and lawyers with demonstrated international experience on the one hand in the wholesale marketing of OPGW capacities, and on the other hand in public-private partnerships for the telecommunications sector as follows:

1. One (1) Marketing or commercial expert/professional, preferably with a minimum of 10 years' professional experience, preferably in the field of wholesale marketing of OPGW capacities;
2. One (1) financial analyst holding a Master's degree in the finance, preferably a specialist with at least five (5) years of professional experience;
3. One (1) telecoms or systems engineer holding an engineering degree in Telecommunications or related field, with at least five (5) years' experience;
4. One (1) legal expert holding a master's degree in law with at least 10 years' professional experience in corporate law, international law and treaties, and cross-border contract management.

The attention of interested consultants is drawn to Chapter IV of the TRANSCO CLSG Tender Code setting forth the TRANSCO CLSG policy on conflict of interest: <https://www.transcoclsg.org/bid-notice-transco-clsg-tender-code/>

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost based Selection method set out in the Tender Code of TRANSCO CLSG that can be accessed from: <https://www.transcoclsg.org/bid-notice-transco-clsg-tender-code/>.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from Monday to Friday between 09:00 AM and 05:00 PM during working days. Or can be obtained upon request, by writing an email to: mkeita@transcoclsg.org with copy to bbalde@transcoclsg.org.

Expression of Interest could be delivered in a written form to the address below (by e-mail) by 5:00 PM GMT on December 15, 2023. Only shortlisted firms will be contacted.

The address referred to above is:

The General Manager

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News Across Africa

Liberia: citizens hail Weah's concession in light of election results

Liberian leader and football legend George Weah conceded defeat to opposition leader Joseph Boakai after a tight presidential run-off, saying it was time to put national interest above personal interest.

A declaration acclaimed by several citizens of Africa's oldest republic.

"I am so happy that the president accepted his defeat because he knew very well that he never did good. And now he wants to prove to the Liberians that he loves them by accepting it because if he doesn't accept it, we will go back to war, and we don't want to go back there," said Patience Quiah, a nursing student.

"I know by the grace of God he will work very hard to bring a change to Liberia because he said it, he wants to put Liberia on the map of the (other) nations, he wants to put Liberia on the map, that the right thing will be done in this country contrary to those things that have been happening that were not right," added Amos Harris, heavy-duty driver.

"The results announced tonight, though not final, indicate that... Boakai is in a lead that we cannot surpass," Weah said in a speech on national radio late on Friday.

He said his CDC party "has lost the election, but Liberia has won," adding: "This is the time for graciousness in defeat".

The 78-year-old Boakai lost to Weah, 57, by a large margin in the second-round presidential vote in 2017.

With more than 99.5 percent of the polling stations reporting vote tallies after Tuesday's second-round vote, Boakai had garnered 50.89 percent of ballots cast, according to the election commission.

Boakai was 28,000 votes ahead of Weah, according to Friday's figures. The two finished neck-and-neck in the first round last month, with a national lead of just 7,126 votes for Weah.

The election of Weah – the first African footballer to win both FIFA's World Player of the Year trophy and the Ballon d'Or – had sparked high hopes of change in Liberia, which is still reeling from back-to-back civil wars and the 2014-2016 Ebola epidemic.

But critics have accused his government of corruption and him of failing to keep a promise to improve the lives of the poorest.

The United States congratulated "president-elect Boakai on his victory and President Weah for his peaceful acceptance of the results".

"We call on all citizens to follow President Weah's example and accept the results," US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said in a statement.

"Liberian people have spoken" Weah said he had spoken to Boakai "to congratulate



Liberia's President George Weah delivers a speech at the leaders summit of the COP27 in Egypt's Red Sea resort city of the same name, on November 8, 2022. - Copyright © africanews AHMAD GHARABLI/AFP or licensors

him on his victory".

"The Liberian people have spoken, and we have heard their voice. However, the closeness of the results reveals a deep division within our country," Weah said in his speech.

"Let us heal the divisions caused by the campaign and come together as one nation and one united people."

Weah who remains president until the handover of power in January pledged to "continue to work for the good of Liberia".

It will be the second peaceful handover of power from one democratically-elected government from another in two decades.

The elections were the first since the United Nations in 2018 ended its peacekeeping mission, created after more than 250,000 people died in the two civil wars in Liberia between 1989 and 2003.

International observers, including the European Union, have commended Liberia for holding a peaceful election.

Regional bloc ECOWAS, the Economic Community of West African States, said the poll was "largely" peaceful, but noted isolated incidents that led to "injuries and hospitalisations" in four provinces.

Clashes during the campaign left several dead before the first round and raised fears of post-election violence.

Around 2.4 million Liberians were eligible to vote on Tuesday, and the turnout was roughly 66 percent, according to the electoral commission website.

Boakai is an old political hand, having served as vice president to Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa's first elected female head of state, from 2006 to 2018.

Liberia is home to around five million people and one of the poorest countries in the world.

More than a fifth of the population lives on less than \$2.15 a day, according to the World Bank.

Senegal court annuls ruling that allowed opposition leader to run for president

Senegal's Supreme Court on Friday overturned a judgment that had put detained political opponent Ousmane Sonko back in the 2024 presidential race, ruling that the case would be retried.

"The court overturns and annuls the decision of the Ziguinchor court of October 12 and returns the case to the Dakar high court" for a retrial, the court's president Ali Cire Ba said.

Last month, a court in Ziguinchor, the southern city where Sonko is mayor, cancelled the opponent's removal from the electoral roll.

The state had appealed the lower court's ruling.

"This decision does not suit us -- the case will be retried but the sponsorships will soon end," Babacar Ndiaye, one of Sonko's lawyers, told AFP on Friday.

Obtaining sponsorships is an essential step for presidential candidates.

"The decision is disappointing," Bamba Cisse, another of Sonko's lawyers, said.

Sonko, 49, was on June 1 convicted in abstentia



Opposition leader Ousmane Sonko (C) looks on during an opposition meeting two days before his trial, in Dakar on March 14, 2023 - Copyright © africanews JOHN WESSELS/AFP or licensors

of morally corrupting a young person and sentenced to two years in prison.

He denounced the trial as a plot to exclude him from the election.

In late July he was arrested and detained on other charges, including fomenting insurrection, criminally associating with a terrorist body and endangering state security.

Mali: government slashes prices on World cup qualifiers to celebrate Kidal victory

Mali's ruling junta has called on citizens to celebrate the military victory in the rebel stronghold Kidal by attending two World Cup qualifier matches, with ticket prices slashed.

The price of general admission tickets against Chad on Friday and the Central African Republic on Monday will be cut in half to 1,000 CFA francs (\$1.65), the Sports Ministry said Wednesday evening on Facebook.

The World Cup qualifier match against Chad took place in the capital Bamako, where the Eagles won 3-1 against the Chadian team.

"The Minister invites the sporting public and the youth of Mali to a great mobilisation on November 17 and 20... to celebrate this historic victory of the armed and security

forces with the Eagles of Mali", the national team's nickname, the statement said.

Mali's military on Tuesday took the town of Kidal from predominantly Tuareg rebel groups. The strategically important northern crossroads has long been a hotbed of insurrection.

It had been under the control of the rebels since they chased out the army in 2014.

Tuesday's victory - the most notable since the ruling junta seized power in 2020 - was widely welcomed by revellers out on the streets and throughout the media.

The Malian Football Federation announced prices would be reduced to "enable the Eagles to make a strong start" in the qualifiers, without referring to Kidal.

Madagascar returns to normality after elections



Bystanders look on as electoral officials (unseen) count votes at a polling station in Antananarivo. 16/11/2023 - Copyright © africanews MAMYRAEL/AFP or licensors

To normality on Friday, a day after the country's presidential elections. As the country awaits the expected announcement of Rajoelina's victory, people are getting on with daily life. **

In the capital Antananarivo, umbrellas bearing the picture of incumbent president Andrey Rajoelina had covered one of the city's busy streets in the days running up to Thursday's vote. On Friday, however, not one umbrella remained. Risse Nampona, a cigarette seller, has also folded up the orange parasol. "I'm not interested in being politically coloured," says the 22-year-old.

Is he afraid of a political crisis? "For us, it'll be the

same as always: life is hard and things don't change," he says.

The country is one of the world's poorest despite its rich natural resources. Many struggle to survive and avoid getting involved in politics.

With an abstention rate of around 60%, the highest "in the history of Madagascar", the opposition has already declared that it "does not recognise" the election and continues to call for the electoral process to be suspended.

So far, Rajoelina has received over 70% of the vote, but the opposition has denounced electoral irregularities and a lack of impartiality.

Credit: Rédaction africanews with AP

First Africa Cinema Summit ends in Ghana

In a resounding call to harness Africa's rich cultural tapestry, filmmakers across the continent are being urged to pool their resources and collaborate effectively to propel growth.

This call echoes louder as Ghana plays host to the inaugural African Cinema Summit, aimed at revitalizing the cinematic landscape to generate wealth.

Africa, with its rich cultural, historical, and social diversity, has a film legacy that dates back to the emigration era.

However, the industry has struggled to reflect an accurate portrayal of its cultures, often being relegated to mere backdrops for Western narratives. A challenge which underscores the need for change. "It's time for Africa to assert its voice on the global cinema stage," Edward Moukala the head of UNESCO Accra office said.

"Let us save this comment to foster collaboration, share resources and unit in our commitment to create a vibrant African film industry".

"Tell a story that resonates" The 3-day African Cinema Summit in Accra delved into the intricacies, challenges, and opportunities within the African cinematic space.

As a filmmaker and head of Ghana's film agency, Juliet Yaa Asantewa Asante said she always had the same sense when attending international industry events: African cinema had so much more potential to deliver.

"We're [...] telling local filmmakers that look, your content cannot survive only in Ghana. First of all, you need to make sure that your film makes it through festivals, through cinemas, but also you need to take your film outside of Ghana. And for your film to do

well means that you're able to tell a story that resonate, and a good story is a good story."

CEO of Ghana's National Film Authority, Asante joined forces with Nigerian and other African filmmakers and distributors this week in Ghana's capital to debate how the continent's industry can do just that.

Africa's film and audiovisual businesses generate about \$5 billion annually, but could potentially reach \$20 billion and create 20 million jobs, according to the UN cultural agency UNESCO citing a pan-African filmmakers' federation.

President Akufo Addo recognizes the great influence of an empowered film industry, as a catalyst for sustainable development across African nations.

"I believe it's not beyond us collectively in Africa to produce such statistics and the availability of the right skills set is critical to this end," the president said.

Ghana has been promoting itself as a movie location with its "Shoot in Ghana" campaign, with British actor Idris Elba recently visiting the country where he said he would shoot some of his next film, local media reported.

"Those who lose out are not just Africans, it is the global community, because the global community will be more enriched by African stories playing out," Asante said. "We have seen there is a definitely a place for African stories told with the right quality."

As investments and collaborations increase, the African film industry stands poised to capture the essence of its diverse stories, drive economic progress and pave the way for a sustainable future.

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INT'L SPORTS

Everton have received an immediate 10-point deduction after being found to have breached the Premier League's financial rules.

English top-flight clubs are permitted to lose £105m over three years, and an independent commission found Everton's losses to 2021-22 amounted to £124.5m.

The punishment is the biggest sporting sanction in the competition's history and leaves Everton 19th in the table.

The club said they were "both shocked and disappointed" and would appeal.

The Premier League referred Everton to an independent commission in March but did not reveal the specifics of the club's alleged breach.

That month, Everton posted financial losses for the fifth successive year after reporting a £44.7m deficit in 2021-22.

They admitted to being in breach of the profit and sustainability rules (PSR) for the period ending 2021-22, and the commission found in favour of the Premier League following a five-day hearing in October.

In a statement, Everton said: "The club does not recognise the finding that it failed to act with the utmost good faith and it does not understand this to have been an allegation made by the Premier League during the course of proceedings.

"Both the harshness and severity of the sanction imposed by the commission are neither a fair nor a reasonable reflection of the evidence submitted.

"The club will also monitor with great interest the decisions made in any other cases concerning the Premier League's profit and sustainability rules."

The points deduction comes at a time of significant uncertainty at Everton.

In September, owner Farhad Moshiri agreed to sell his 94% stake in the club to American investment fund 777 Partners. The takeover is going through the regulatory processes and, before this ruling, sources said it was on course to be completed by next month.

The club are in the process of building a

Everton receive immediate 10-point Premier League deduction for financial rules breach

new stadium on the banks of the River Mersey at Bramley-Moore Dock, which is due to open in late 2024.

Explaining why Everton's points deduction was so high, the commission said in its written reasons that the cause of the club's issues was because of overspending - largely on new players - along with an inability to sell players, and a lower than projected league finish.

The Premier League had argued for a 12-point sanction for the club.

The club's 16th-place finish in 2021-22 caused a loss of expected income of around £21m, the reasons state.

The commission added: "Everton's understandable desire to improve its on-pitch performance (to replace the non-existent midfield, as Mr Moshiri put it in evidence) led it to take chances with its PSR position.

"Those chances resulted in it exceeding the £105m threshold by £19.5m.

"The position that Everton finds itself in is of its own making. The excess over the threshold is significant. The consequence is that Everton's culpability is great.

"We take into account the fact that Everton's PSR trend over the relevant four years is positive, but cannot ignore the fact that the failure to comply with the PSR regime was the result of Everton irresponsibly taking a chance that things would turn out positively."

The commission ultimately found Everton's failure to comply with the Premier League's "generous threshold" was down to their own "mismanagement".

The chair of the commission, David Phillips KC, also referenced applications for financial compensation from current Premier League clubs Burnley and Nottingham Forest and last season's relegated sides, Leicester City, Leeds United and Southampton.

Phillips said he was "satisfied that the applicant clubs have potential claims for



compensation" - but noted the commission holds no "inherent jurisdiction" and it is instead "the role of the Premier League to bring and prosecute complaints".

Everton advanced six mitigating factors in their defence. Among them, the club said they lost money on 'Player X' - who was released after being arrested.

The commission dismissed this argument as an event that can "occur in the management of football clubs", adding Everton's £10m valuation of the player was "speculative".

Further mitigating factors submitted by Everton surrounded the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

The Toffees said they had planned player sales exceeding £80m in the pandemic-impacted 2020 summer transfer window but the commission sided with the Premier League's assertion that Everton's inability to raise that money was "largely attributable" to market forces - namely the prices Everton were asking for.

Further, it stated the club should be expected to "plan for untoward eventualities", while it was also considered that Everton had benefited

from the Premier League's Covid-related concessions totalling £70.2m.

Similarly, the commission found that both the loss of a naming rights agreement with Russian billionaire Alisher Usmanov's company USM Services Limited and a rise in stadium-related costs following Russia's invasion of Ukraine could be considered "the type of event that businesses experience".

The commission also dismissed Everton's claim that interest incurred in relation to the stadium development could have been capitalised after planning permission had been obtained as being "based on a false premise", adding Everton had been "less than frank" over the issue.

Everton also asked for their cooperation during the process to be considered in the ruling. In response, the commission said it did not find any aspect of the club's dealings to be of an "exceptional nature".

But the club's argument that the improving losses trend, as shown in the PSR calculation, was viewed more favourably and had gone a "limited way to diminish Everton's culpability", the commission said.

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football>

Erling Haaland promises he is 'trying to get back ASAP' before Manchester City's clash with Liverpool next weekend



Erling Haaland has told fans he is 'trying to get back ASAP' after suffering a second ankle injury of the month on international duty, handing Manchester City fans a scare over their star's fitness.

The Norway striker twisted his ankle

during his country's 2-0 friendly win over the Faroe Islands and looked in considerable pain.

It is the Norwegian goal machine's second ankle issue this month after he came off at half-time in the 6-1 demolition job of Bournemouth on November 4, raising concerns he may not be fit to play in the marquee fixture against the Reds.

As such, he has been ruled out of Norway's final Euros qualifier against Scotland and will be desperate to play when City host Liverpool in a top-of-the-table clash on November 25.

"Unfortunately, I am missing tomorrow's game against Scotland. Wishing the boys all the best," he wrote on Instagram.

"Now treatment and trying to get back ASAP".

While he gritted his teeth until the end against the Faroe Islands on Thursday,

the worry for City is that the 23-year-old had already aggravated his ankle this month.

He was withdrawn at half-time in City's 6-1 demolition job of Bournemouth on November 4.

Within 24 hours he told Pep Guardiola that the pain had subsided, and within three days he started and scored twice against BSC Young Boys in the Champions League.

Man City's sports therapist Mario Pafundi accompanied Haaland on international duty as is customary and Norway have been in contact with his club.

Norway's team doctor, Ola Sand, said that while the issue is not serious, 'he is in so much pain and somewhat restricted function' that he will not be able to face Scotland at Hampden Park.

The fixture is a dead rubber then as they cannot catch Scotland or Spain

in the top two positions of Group A.

Haaland has been in white-hot goalscoring form this season, with 17 goals in 18 games in all competitions.

However, he faces a race against time to be ready for the Liverpool fixture, which could see the league leadership change hands as a solitary point separates the two sides.

Pep Guardiola is not just sweating over the fitness of his star striker, as several of his squad - including Ederson, Nathan Ake, Mateo Kovacic and Matheus Nunes - were withdrawn from national team selection and face a race against time to feature.

The Premier League champions will also be without long-term absentees Kevin De Bruyne, John Stones and Sergio Gomez.

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