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Sierra Leone Signs MoU with Chinese company for Lungi bridge construction



British High Commissioner urges adherence to peace dialogue commitments

LRMG energises communities with increase in surface rent payment



By Yusufu S. Bangura

The British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Lisa Chesney, has last Friday cautioned both the government and the opposition to make sure they adhere to commitments made at the peace dialogue for benefit of all Sierra Leoneans. She made the call in a separate meeting she had with the government and the main opposition All People's Congress (APC) party, where she expressed total commitment to working hard and supporting the Government of Sierra Leone to maintain the peace and stability of the country at all times.



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British High Commissioner, Lisa Chesney



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Angola's young entrepreneurs 'Empretecos' on a mission to transform their country

By: Kingsley Ighobor

A unique training programme – EMPRETEC – offered by UNCTAD sparks interest in entrepreneurship, with the youth leading the way

In a spacious start-up incubator nestled in the heart of Luanda, the bustling capital of Angola, a group of aspiring young men and women are engrossed in their computer screens. They are scouring the internet intently for the next big business opportunity, getting information for their business plans, conducting market research, or assessing the risks they are about to take. What unites them is a shared ambition—to achieve success as entrepreneurs.

They are aware that the road to success is paved with hard work. Their dreams extend beyond personal gain; they are driven to contribute to the development of their nation and uplift their families.

These young Angolans proudly bear the sobriquet "empretecos", a term derived from "Empretec"—a flagship European Union-financed capacity-building programme implemented by UNCTAD aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and supporting micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

Empretec is officially recognized by a UN General Assembly resolution, which labeled it a "behavioral approach programme."

The term "empreteco" refers to anyone who has undergone this training. There are approximately 500 Angolan empretecos, of different ages and gender, and from different parts of the country.

Africa Renewal engaged in a conversation with five young empretecos, comprising three women and two men. They are:

Laudiana Nicolau, the manager of an entrepreneurship training company.

Wilson Kiteque, a prominent empreteco trainer who has traveled across various regions of the country.

Mara Francisca Kanganjo, the proprietor of an online bakery and cookies store.

Antonio Pehehaff Neto, the founder of a graphic and branding company.

Carla Gabriela Salvador, the manager of an online jewelry and fashion accessories store.

What prompted a shift towards entrepreneurship?

"It is the entrepreneurship training we recently completed," Ms. **Laudiana Nicolau** volunteers. Seeking to demonstrate that women can break the cycle of dependence, she emphasizes, "Women often rely on men, first on their father as the head of the family and then marrying and becoming dependent on their husbands for everything. I want to show that young women can own successful businesses. The training instilled in me self-confidence and financial independence."

Mara echoes Laudiana's sentiments, stressing that setting and diligently pursuing targets are her key takeaways from the training.

Carla, now armed with a clear understanding of business opportunities, diversification strategies, and the commitment necessary for success, pledges, "I am now committed to giving my all to every endeavor I choose in life."

The training's emphasis on internal and external business management methods, goal-setting, calculated risk-taking, self-assurance, and effective negotiation skills are the highlights for Wilson, one of the lead empreteco trainers.

Taking risks

A recurring theme among the empretecos is their newfound willingness to take calculated risks—an attitude they were previously averse to.

Wilson recollects the lukewarm interest among Angolans when the training commenced in 2018.

However, through word-of-mouth recommendations, those who completed the training began to spread the word, leading to a surge in interest over the years. Listening to these budding entrepreneurs underscores the most crucial outcome of their training—a renewed hope in their potential for success and a rekindled determination to achieve their goals.

The training [on entrepreneurship] instilled in me self-confidence and financial independence.

Contributing to national development

"I want to develop my country," asserts Laudiana, her determination palpable.

Antonio's vision extends even further: "I aim to uplift my society and support my friends and family. My personal wealth is not my concern; I want to be remembered as someone who positively impacted lives when I'm gone."

Their individual aspirations reveal a remarkable maturity that defies their age, most of them being in their 20s. The good news for them is that the training provides a clear path to success, and they have access to the internet, a valuable resource for continuing to acquire business intelligence.

Setting and diligently pursuing targets emerged as her key takeaway from the training.

"In today's business landscape, knowledge is power," insists Wilson, maintaining that soaring interest in the training confirms the eagerness among Angolans to move beyond oil and gas and not depend on the government in sectors where individuals can excel.

Antonio describes the training as highly practical, emphasizing how he witnessed firsthand methods that a business could use to generate profits.

"It was a real-life experiment. We formed groups, and my group established a juice supply company. We immediately started reaching out to potential clients and within three days we had sold juice worth about 170,000 Angolan Kwanzas (approximately \$200). It was incredible," he recalls.

He's now ready to apply the concepts he learned during the empreteco training in his own business, aiming for national and international recognition within the next five years.

I am now committed to giving my all to every endeavor I choose in life

Challenges ahead

Yet, amid the myriad opportunities in an economy traditionally dominated by extractive industries, the empretecos acknowledge the challenges they will face.

These include an economy recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, a fluctuating currency that makes risk assessment unpredictable, and banks' hesitancy to lend to young entrepreneurs without established track records.

Mara says she also grapples with stiff competition from well-established companies in her industry: "I've crunched the numbers and wonder why they offer such low prices, considering we use the same materials." Describing the competition as unfair, she hopes to tackle it by redefining her target market.



Some of Angola's young empretecos.



Laudiana Nicolau, Manager of an entrepreneurship training company



Ms. Mara Francisca Kanganjo, Proprietor of an online bakery and cookies store.



Carla Gabriela Salvador, Operator of an online jewelry and fashion accessories store.



Wilson Kiteque, Prominent empreteco trainer who has traveled across various regions of Angola.



Antonio Pehehaff Neto, Founder of a graphic and branding company.

In today's business landscape, knowledge is power.

Laudiana believes there is a need to change the mindset of the population regarding financial literacy. "People should begin to understand how money works. It will be helpful," she says.

Wilson's primary concern is the economic environment, emphasizing that

entrepreneurship requires supportive policies to thrive.

However, part of UNCTAD's Transforming4Trade holistic initiative includes examining current policies and recommending to the government policies for adoption that can help establish an enabling environment for entrepreneurship to flourish.

As the empretecos return to their computer workstations following our conversation, Wilson has one last message: "Please convey to everyone that this training should be mandatory for every young person in Angola and across Africa. We need to change the destiny of this continent."

I aim to uplift my society, support my friends and family. My personal wealth is not my concern; I want to be remembered as someone who positively impacted lives when I'm gone.

This article was first published in: www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/



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LOCAL NEWS

Residents in Freetown were awoken by sounds of heavy gunfire on Sunday, 26 November, as gunmen broke into the key armoury in the country's largest military barracks, located near the presidential lodge in a heavily guarded part of the city.

The attackers – in their dozens – also targeted two prisons in the city, including the central prison where most of the more than 2,000 inmates were freed, according to Col. Sulaiman Massaquoi, acting head of the Sierra Leone Correctional Service.

Videos posted on social media, which were authenticated by Concord Times, showed inmates fleeing from the area of the prison while gunshots could be heard in the background.

Following the incident, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) who had earlier in the week through its Women's Football Division, commenced a CAF D License Coaching Course for female inmates at the Sierra Leone Correctional Centre in Freetown, where 30 inmates were undergoing the entry-level coaching course to receive CAF accredited coaching badges to add to their resumes as part of their rehabilitation into society, withdrew the Certificate License and flew its instructors out of the country.

The course was designed to use football for change and

Security Breach at Correctional Centre: CAF/FIFA withdraw Certificate License, flew instructors out

rehabilitation for female inmates on the continent and is a first in the history of world football where an accredited football course is conducted in a correctional services institution.

In an exclusive chat with Concord Times, FIFA & CAF Executive Member, Ms. Isha Johansen who is the pioneer of the unique programme expressed her dissatisfaction over the unfortunate incident which she described as, 'self-destructive.'

"It's unfortunate that the Women's Correctional Centre Gender Empowerment Initiative Football For Reform has experienced a major setback... This is very disappointing and demoralizing for everyone involved. Other countries are lining up and CAF/FIFA will support such a worthy course," said Johansen.

The coaching course was set to conclude on Saturday, 02 December, where competent participants who have met all the course requirements would have graduated as CAF-accredited youth football coaches.

CAF's Football For Change falls in line with Johansen's Gender Empowerment Initiative (FOOTBALL FOR REFORM) using football as a tool for positive social change and rehabilitation of women and girls.



Isha Johansen: Not cosy with the bad news

Sierra Leone signs MoU with Chinese company for Lungi bridge construction

By Yusufu S. Bangura



The purpose Lungi Bridge that should be constructed

The Government of Sierra Leone last Friday through a public notice announced the signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Chinese company China Road and Bridge Corporation and the architectural firm of the Atépa Group for the construction of the Freetown-Lungi Bridge.

According to the public notice, the Lungi Bridge stretching an impressive 8 kilometers in length m long which is the idea of President Bio's visionary Big 5 plan aimed at enhancing Sierra Leone's technology and infrastructure, with an estimated investment cost of approximate 1.5 billion United State Dollars.

This project is part of President Bio's Big 5 vision to improve Sierra Leone's Technology and infrastructure, link the capital with the important Lungi airport hub, and ease the transport flow of international and local travellers.

It ultimately the bridge will be a pathway for sustained economic

growth and will complement the new airport which was commissioned on March 3, 2023 by President Bio.

The construction of the Freetown-Lungi Bridge will be a game-changer for both local and international travellers alike, as currently the only mode of transportation between Freetown and Lungi is by ferry, which can be time consuming and inconvenient.

By providing a seamless pathway between the capital city and the vital Lungi airport, this bridge will significantly ease the transport flow, enabling quicker and more efficient travel for everyone in the country.

The Chinese company China Road and Bridge Corporation is among the largest engineering and construction firms globally and operates in more than 50 countries across Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas. It is a member of the Fortune 500, ranking 61st.

The Atépa Group, including the architectural firm, has several globally renowned projects to its credit, including the Banjul Airport (Gambia), the headquarters of BCEAO in Dakar (Senegal), the ECOWAS Fund headquarters in Lomé (Togo), and the Monument of the Renaissance, also in Dakar. It has offices in several countries in Africa and Asia.

A feasibility study of the project will be completed in the next few months, and, barring unforeseen delays, construction will commence in the last quarter of 2024. The project is estimated to take about three years to complete from the start date.

British High Commissioner urges adherence to peace dialogue commitments

From Cover



She recalled that they had rolled out structural meetings with the Government of Sierra Leone and the opposition in relation to maintaining the peace of the country and all representatives fully agreed to uphold the peace and protect the lives and properties of everyone in the country.

She further reiterated that the country needs both parties to put into effect their commitments made in the peace dialogue for the good of the country, adding that the United

Kingdom is ready to work with and support the government of Sierra Leone and all stakeholders in making sure that this is achieved.

"In meetings with the government and the opposition, all agreed that violence to undermine a State is never justified. Now, more than ever, commitments made in the peace dialogue must be implemented, to benefit all of Sierra Leoneans. United Kingdom is ready to work with and support the government and all stakeholders in this," she wrote.

The British High Commission's commitment to peace and stability in Sierra Leone is an important part of the UK's wider strategy for supporting good governance and democracy in Africa. The UK is a long-standing partner of Sierra Leone and has provided significant support to the country in recent years.



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LOCAL NEWS

LRMG energises communities with increase in surface rent payment

On 2nd December 2023, Leone Rock Metal Group (LRMG), a reputable mining company, made a remarkable payment of 5,638,150,422 Leones to fulfill its obligation of surface rent payment to the communities along the rail line corridor and within the vicinity of the Pepel Port. This represents a significant increase from the previous annual payment of SLL 185,000,000 that the communities had been receiving.

The Chairman of the Port Loko District Council, Sheku Tejan Sannoh and Hon. Abdul Kargbo, who serves as the leader of the opposition party in Parliament, expressed gratitude on behalf of their respective members for LRMG's commitment to development and support. He emphasized that LRMG has proven to be a trusted partner and assured the company of continued support.

Salim Sillah, the Chief Technical Officer of LRMG, acknowledged the security concerns in Sierra Leone but highlighted that LRMG remains dedicated to building investor confidence in the country and standing alongside its people. He emphasized that the payment encompasses not only the rail infrastructure spanning ten chiefdoms and three districts (Tonkolili, Bombali, and Port Loko) but also the Pepel Port within the Pepel Community. The payment was divided accordingly to ensure fair distribution.

Sillah reaffirmed LRMG's commitment to being law-abiding and transparent, highlighting that the open payment demonstrates the company's integrity. He expressed gratitude to the government for increasing the surface rent payment, as it helps stabilize and improve the livelihoods of the communities. He also mentioned that the surface rent payment is just one aspect of LRMG's relationship with the communities. The company remains dedicated to implementing Community Development Action Plans (CDAP) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects that positively impact lives. This year, LRMG allocated \$300,000 specifically for CSR projects throughout the country.

LRMG also intends to comply with the Rail and Port Lease Agreement. They have already launched the rail and port expansion project, and the payment of surface rent signifies their commitment to continue fulfilling the agreement.

The Deputy Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources, Napoleon Koroma commended the President of Sierra Leone for entrusting the

management of the railway and port to LRMG, praising the company for setting the pace in the mining industry. The Minister of Transport and Aviation reiterated LRMG's compliance and efforts to improve the country, while the Speaker of Parliament, Dr. Abass Bundu, expressed gratitude for LRMG's support during the security crisis and emphasized the importance of maintaining investor confidence.

Representing the Landowners, Dr. Kamara announced LRMG's cooperation and commitment to building their respective communities. They expressed gratitude to the government for the decision to award the rail and port to LRMG, as well as LRMG's sustainability plan and peaceful nature.

The Paramount Chiefs express heartfelt gratitude to the company

and government for fostering an environment conducive to collaborate which has contributed significantly to creating an atmosphere that encourages sustainable development and collaboration between stakeholders.

Despite the security threats and military breach in the country, LRMG continues to invest and honor its agreement with the government, thereby building trust and encouraging other investors to

consider Sierra Leone. The company's dedication to supporting the country's mining industry and economic growth is crucial in maintaining investor confidence and ensuring the well-being of residents.

Overall, LRMG's substantial increase in surface rent payment showcases its commitment to the development and prosperity of Sierra Leone communities, solidifying its status as a trusted partner in the country's growth.



LOCAL NEWS

By Yusufu S. Bangura

The Commonwealth Secretary-General, Patricia Scotland has urged all Sierra Leoneans to reject violence and to work together to build a more peaceful and prosperous future for the country.

She made this in a press statement on Friday 1st December which condemning the violence that erupted in some parts of Freetown on Sunday, 26 November 2023.

In a statement, Scotland said she was deeply concerned to learn that some individuals had broken into the Military Armoury at the Wilberforce barracks in Freetown. She added that she condemned

Commonwealth Secretary-General urged Sierra Leoneans to reject violence

such violent acts in the strongest possible terms.

Scotland said that the violence had saddened the Commonwealth family and that it was "particularly distressing" given the progress that Sierra Leone had made in recent years.

She noted that the government and the opposition, together with key democratic institutions and stakeholders, had been engaged in a sincere, meaningful, and fruitful dialogue that had been aimed at strengthening unity, peace, constitutional order, democratic

governance, and national development.

Scotland said that the violence was "a betrayal of the courage, resilience, integrity, and love that have made Sierra Leone special" she therefore urged all Sierra Leoneans to reject violence and to work together to build a more peaceful and prosperous future for their country.

Scotland reaffirmed the Commonwealth's continuous full support to President Bio and his administration, stating that the



Commonwealth Secretary-General, Patricia Scotland

Commonwealth would continue to facilitate the dialogue process in the country that had been started in August 2022, adding that she has shared the hope that peace would be restored in Sierra Leone.

ILO, UNCDF & partners promote GBV awareness in W4WP project communities

By Mohamed Kargbo

The International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), and collaborative partners conducted a three-day awareness campaign on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in five project communities in Freetown from November 29th to December 1st, 2023. This initiative was part of the 16 Days of Activism under the Women for Water & Peace (W4WP) Project.

Funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (UNPBF) through the Gender Promotion Initiative, the joint project, "Women for Water and Peace," empowers young women in five Freetown Wards (Mayinkineh, Rokupa, Dwarzark, Lumley, and Crab Town, Aberdeen). The project supports the construction and management of twenty-five water kiosks with solar-powered purification systems, providing clean water to vulnerable communities in a conflict-sensitive manner.

The project aims to enable women and girls to take leadership roles in preventing conflicts related to water scarcity. ILO leads awareness activities against GBV in the project communities under the theme: "Unite! Invest to Prevent Violence against Women & Girls."

Implementing partners include the Sierra Leone Labour Congress (SLLC), the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), the Sierra Leone Employers' Federation (SLEF), the Institute for Legal Research and Advocacy for Justice (ILRAJ), and the Federation of



Urban and Rural Poor (FEDURP).

During her statements, the National Project Coordinator for the W4WP-ILO, Mrs. Sia Lajaku-Williams, emphasized addressing violence during water scarcity and creating awareness of Gender-Based Violence. The project also empowers women by establishing water kiosks managed by women in different communities to address water-related GBV.

Madam Lajaku-Williams stressed the collective responsibility to raise awareness during the 16 days of activism on GBV, concluding with a call for Sierra Leoneans to unite against Gender-Based Violence.

In her statement, Desrica Taylor from WANEP emphasized that GBV affects both women and men. She encouraged women to report any incidents, cautioning them to be vigilant at night due to safety concerns in Freetown. She also urged women to play their role as mothers in their homes by encouraging their children, especially the girl child, to focus on their academic work and set good examples for their children to emulate.

Fatima Ashmia Forna from ILRAJ informed beneficiaries about laws addressing GBV, including the

Sexual Offences Act of 2012 and its 2019 amendment, the Domestic Violence Act. She urged parents not to settle GBV matters privately and highlighted the Child Rights Act, discouraging abusive treatment of children.

Fonnah concluded by celebrating the Gender Equality Act (GEWE) signed this year by President Bio, emphasizing women's equal participation in all aspects of life, marking a significant shift from past discrimination.

Gloria Kpaka from the Sierra Leone Labour Congress (SLLC) delved into the importance of labor law and how it protects and maintains employer and employee relationships. She further stated that the law specifically protects employees who are being sexually harassed in their workplace. She concluded that one of the ways to reduce gender-based violence in our communities is through sensitization and awareness raising; spreading the information by word of mouth and through women's empowerment.

At the climax of each session in the five project communities, participants were allowed to ask questions or make their contributions.

The first contributor, who did not mention her name, stated that she is concerned about violence against children, noting numerous instances of child abuse in the community. She called on participants to deviate from child abuse and appealed to community members to implement what they had learned from the engagement.

Another contribution made by a community member was an appeal to young ladies to choose their spouses wisely, emphasizing that the lifestyle and family they choose to entertain will reflect on them.

Another member recommended that wives should submit to their husbands, emphasizing the importance of peace in homes. Another member pointed out the growing sexual harassment that women face, stating that men often demand sexual favors before providing job opportunities or connections.

Lastly, another member expressed concern about lacking faith in the justice system, citing bias towards the rich over the poor based on her own experience.

Members of the high table responded to some of the concerns raised by participants.

Hellen Pearce from ILRAJ reaffirmed the impartiality of the justice system in Sierra Leone and urged them to report any incidents of gender-based violence in their communities to the Family Support Unit of the Sierra Leone Police.

The event ended with a commitment pledge to end gender-based violence by the participants in five communities.



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Build, operate and transfer, the way forward in infrastructural development: A case study of Wellington-Waterloo-Masiaka highway

1.0 Introduction

One of the major differences between the developed world and the developing countries is in the level of their infrastructural development and effectiveness of service delivery. The funding of this infrastructural development could not be handled by government alone and the developed world has introduced the private sector in the area.

Sierra Leone is trying very hard to move in this direction but there is not enough education in the public domain about the great benefits and its funding in terms of the private companies funding the project and getting their money back. The reconstruction of the Wellington - Masiaka was the first of its kind in Sierra Leone in which the investor did and has to do the following:

The contractor provided the funds for the reconstruction.
The company undertook the construction.
The company carries out basic routine maintenance.
The company will continue to rehabilitate the road through out the contractual period.
The company collect tolls to offset their investment, maintenance, rehabilitation and operational costs.

2.0 Previous condition of road

The Wellington - Waterloo - Masiaka road had very serious challenges before it was reconstructed by the private partner among which are:
Very high accident rate and most of which were fatal.
Very high travel time as a result of congestion particularly from Waterloo - Freetown about three hours.

The maintenance culture of the road was poor with blocked drains, flooding, bushy roads, potholes and various road defects.
Possibility of head-on collision of vehicles were very high.
Drivers and passengers' confidence on this stretch were very low.
Little or no lay-byes for vehicles to stop and pick-up goods and passengers.

A two lane long bridge in the busy section of this road - the Orugu Bridge.

It was in the face of these challenges that Government entered into negotiation with the partner to provide not only the money but the construction, management and to recoup their money. The investor was also to train locals as a way of technology and skill transfer. This resulted in the training of fifty workers abroad.

3.0 Benefits

Some of the benefits of the road development include the following:
Taking the burden of providing huge cost for reconstruction from Government which had various financial challenges.
This road has showcased major infrastructural development in Sierra Leone and thus the national image of the country on the world platform.

The rehabilitation of this road such as overlay will leave the road in good condition after expiration of the contract thus provide a major benefit to the people of Sierra Leone.

The reduction of both fatal and minor accidents on the stretch - lifesaving. The incident of head on collision of vehicles travelling in opposite direction which normally results in fatal accident is completely prevented. This is as a result of the four-lane road divided by a median along the entire road stretch.
Reduction of the travel time by passengers, vehicles, drivers and private commuters by more than 2 hours which represent 200% reduction.

Road development goes with growth in population and all corresponding requirements. There has been and is still continuing an upsurge of development and growth in the road corridor.

New economic activities have sprung along the road corridor - the Songo industrial area with new factories, supermarkets, shops, fuel stations and other local businesses.

There is high increase in the value of properties along the road corridor.
Service delivery such as health, accommodation, education, etc. have increased along the road, thus reducing pressure on the inadequate services in the city of Freetown.

Agricultural activities have not only increased in the road corridor but



Aerial view of the Wellington-Waterloo-Masiaka Highway - Hastings Tollgate



Road condition before reconstruction

has influenced growth in the production of agricultural products.
The number of trips generated by commercial vehicles has increased by more than three folds along the road corridor. This corresponds to more money in the coffers of commercial vehicle owners.
The vehicle operating cost which includes fuel, tyres, spare parts, lubricants etc. has reduced. In effect there is an increase in the life span of vehicles.

The importation of spare parts, tyres, lubricants, fuel, etc. are



Road condition after reconstruction

procured outside the country thus requiring foreign exchange. Reduction in the foreign exchange requirement in the transport industry is a great benefit to Government.

The entire lifestyle of the population along the road corridor in terms of communication, accessing the city and other facilities in Freetown have changed for the better.

The aesthetic of the corridor has improved and the impression to foreign visitor travelling by road is very high. Sister countries like Sierra Leone have visited the investor and government to learn from the Sierra Leone example, etc.

The employment of over 1000 local workers during construction period and presently over 200 permanent local workers to operate and undertake maintenance on the highway.

4.0 Similar examples in other countries



Hastings Tollgate

The concept of BOT in the construction of roads could be found in the USA, China, Senegal, etc.

In the USA, most of the major federal highways are constructed, operated, and maintained by the BOT arrangement and tolls are collected to not only get the investment cost but to cover maintenance, rehabilitation, and operation. These toll charges are revised to ensure that the overall cost of the highway is recovered. It is a similar situation in China. In West Africa, Senegal stands out clearly in this direction of road infrastructural development. It should be made known that the highway in USA and other parts of the World have generated wealth and made them great coupled with other additional factors.

5.0 A look at some trunk roads

A brief comparison of the performance of the Wellington - Waterloo - Masiaka road to the Masiaka - Bo and Masiaka - Kono will clearly review the following:

Wellington - Waterloo - Masiaka is regularly and promptly maintained compared to its adjacent highways leading to Bo and Kono because of limited funds availability to do prompt maintenance.

The number of accidents and severity on the Wellington - Waterloo - Masiaka is far lower than those sister connecting highways. The overall road safety aspects follow the same pattern.

Most major developments are more concentrated on the Wellington - Waterloo - Masiaka road corridor than that leading to Bo and Kono. It is easy to argue in terms of proximity to Freetown but it may be due to comfort and faster rate of travel also.

6.0 The need to increase the cost of toll

It is imperative that the cost of toll should be visited if this project were to remain not only viable but a leading example with fair play on the part of government and the investor. This would be looked at in the face of the following.

The cost of this project was calculated in United States Dollars at the time of signing the contract

The cost of toll is in Leones which was calculated base on the rate of the USD to Leones at the time. The rates at these two period are as follows:

Signing of agreement of toll cost in July 2017, exchange rate was one USD (USD) equivalent to Leones seven thousand five hundred (Le7500).

Current exchange is one dollar (USD 1) equivalent to Leones twenty three thousand five hundred Leones (Le23,500)

The exchange rate has increased by about three folds.

In a similar vein, the price of fuel which is a major item in the transport industry has gone through the following changes:

Cost of fuel per liter in July 2017 was Le 6,000

The current cost of fuel per liter is Le 30,000

The cost has increased by about five (5) folds which is also a similar item in the transport sector.

The average salary of each worker over the past five (5) years has increased by approximately Leones one million five hundred thousand (Le1,500,000) per month. An additional advantage is that free Bus service is provided to convey the workers to work and back. It is very

obvious from the above mentioned facts that it is fair and reasonable to increase the toll cost.



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Invitation for Bids

Date of First Issue: 28th November, 2023

The Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC) has allocated funds for the supplies and services of various items for the smooth function of the Commission.

The needed items are as follows:

Items Description	Quantity	LOT	Code	Delivery Schedule in weeks/months
Supply Stationery and Toners	Various	1	PPRC/ADMIN/NCB/2024/001	Frame work
Supply of Toiletries	Various	2	PPRC/ADMIN/NCB/2024/002	Frame work
Supply of Provisions	Various	3	PPRC/ADMIN/NCB/2024/003	Frame work
Supply of Furniture	Various	4	PPRC/ADMIN/NCB/2024/004	Frame work
Catering Service	Various	5	PPRC/ADMIN/NCB/2024/005	Frame work
Printing Service	Various	6	PPRC/ADMIN/NCB/2024/006	Frame work
Vehicle Repairs/Servicing	Various	7	PPRC/ADMIN/NCB/2024/007	Frame work

Bidding is open to all suppliers or service providers who can demonstrate eligibility and capability to undertake the supply and delivery of various items. Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the address below between 0900 hrs and 1500 hrs. Bidding documents may be purchased upon payment of a **non-refundable fee of SLL. 500 (Five Hundred Leones)** to be paid in the following accounts, following which, pay-in-slips from the bank to be submitted to the officer below for the issuance of the document:

Name of Bank: Bank of Sierra Leone

A/C Name: Revenue from sale of Bidding Document

A/C Number: 0111003981

BBAN: 000001011100398165

Bank Name: Union Trust Bank

A/C Name: Revenue from sale of Bidding Document

A/C Number: 21011325301

BBAN NO: 004001113253120144

Bank Name: Sierra Leone Commercial Bank

A/C Name: Revenue from sale of Bidding Document

A/C NO: 003001081791112183

Bank Name: Rokel Commercial Bank

A/C Name: Revenue from sale of Bidding Document

A/C NO: 02011012428

BBAN NO: 002001002101242863

A formal Treasury receipt must be issued to the bidder which will be submitted to PPRC in return for the bidding document.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **12 noon on Wednesday 27th December 2023,**

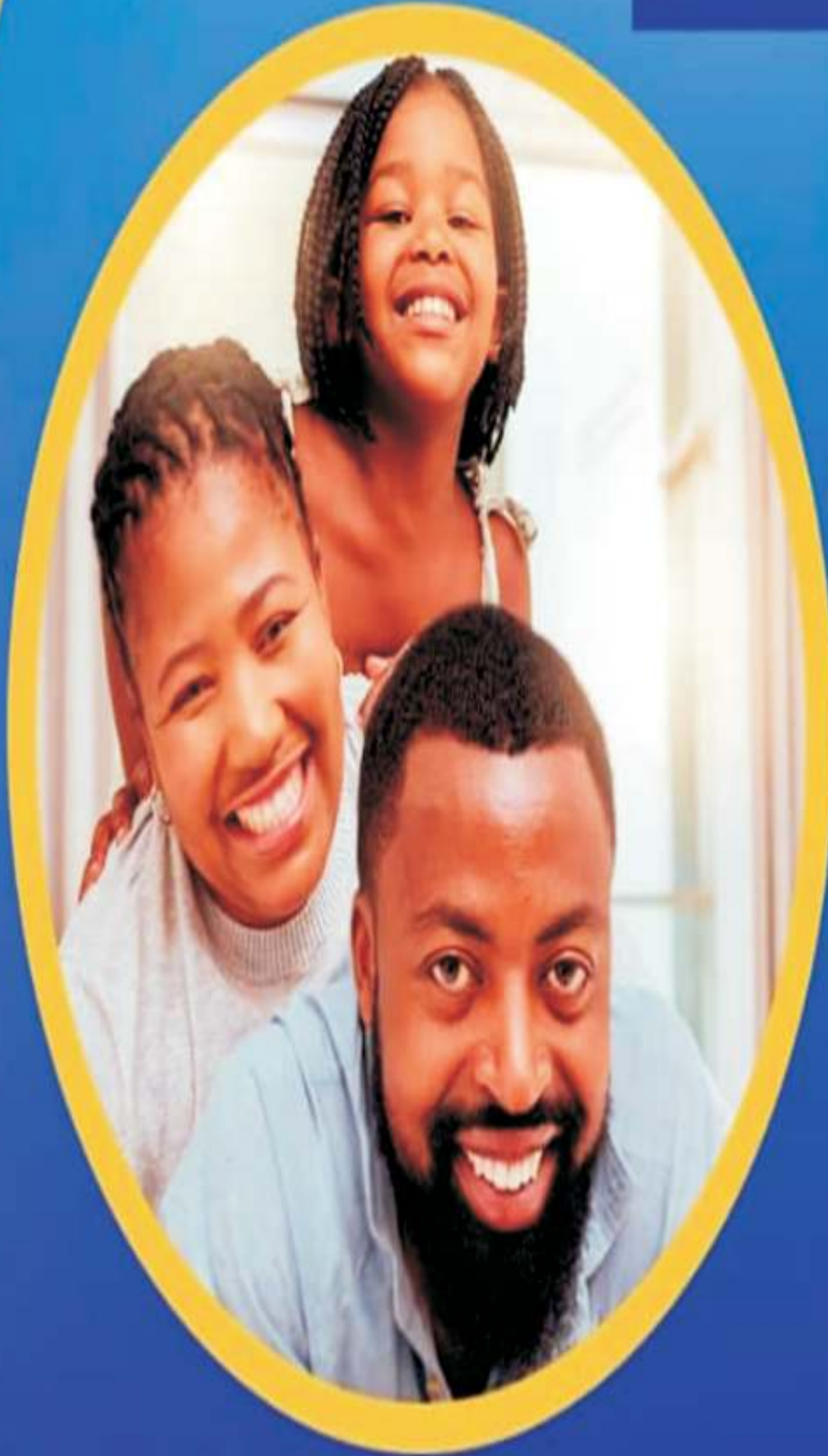
All bids must be accompanied by:

- * **A Business Registration Certificate**
- * **A valid NRA tax Clearance Certificate;**
- * **A valid NASSIT Clearance Certificate;**
- * **Bid Security of SLL. 10,000 (Ten Thousand (Leones) from a reputable Commercial Bank**
- * **A Complete and signed bid form**
- * **A signed Integrity Pact; [see attached]**

Bids will be publicly opened on **Wednesday 27th December, 2023 at 12 noon,** in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below.

Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened to bidders.

**The Executive Secretary
 Political Parties Regulation Commission (PPRC) Office
 OAU Drive
 Tower Hill, Freetown.**



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GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
Environment Protection Agency
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
92 Dundas Street, Freetown



NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
INVITATION FOR BID
Procurement of Vehicle and Office Equipment.

Procurement Number: EPASL/EC/NCB/2023/002
Date of First Issue: 4th December, 2023

Environment Protection Agency generates its funds from Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) license fees paid by companies and intends to spend part of its funds to procure vehicle and office equipment for its office use.

1. EPA now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of the undermentioned.

LOT NO.	Lot Description	DELIVERY SCHEDULE	BID SECURITY
1	Vehicle	2 Months (From date of signing of contract)	Nle12,000.00
2	Office Equipment	2 Weeks (From date of signing of contract)	Nle 4,500.00

- Detailed descriptions and technical specifications of the items are attached in the bidding schedule of requirement
 - Interested registered suppliers must bid for **ONLY 1 Lot** of any of the Lots, but partial bidding for **LOT2** shall constitute incomplete bidding. Alternate bidding for **LOT2** shall not be allowed. An unconditional discount on offer would have to be declared expressly before inclusion in the calculation of the bid price.
 - BIDDERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CLEARLY STATE GST BEFORE GIVING THE FINAL TOTAL TO THE BID PRICE OR CLEARLY STATE 'EXCLUSIVE' IF NOT INCLUDED.
 - Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure in accordance with the Public Procurement Act 2016 of Sierra Leone and open to all eligible suppliers who can demonstrate the eligibility requirement as stated in the bidding document
 - Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at Environment Protection Agency 92 Dundas Street Freetown, Sierra Leone between 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. from Monday to Friday except on Public holidays
 - A complete set of the Bidding documents may be purchased upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Nle500 (Five Hundred New Leones). All payment for bidding documents must be paid to any of the National Public Procurement Authority (NPPA) sales bidding Bank Account: The pay-in slip must be submitted at the Senior Admin Officer 2nd Floor Board Room before a bidding document is issued to the bidder.
- 1. Bank Name: Bank of Sierra Leone**
Account Name: NPPA-Revenue from sale of Bidding Documents
Account Number: 0111003981
BBAN: 000001011100398165

2. Bank Name: Union Trust Bank
Account Name: Revenue from sale of Bidding Sub Treasury
Account Number: 210113253-01
BBAN: 00-4001113253120144

3. BANK: Sierra Leone Commercial Bank
Account Name: NPPA-Revenue from the sale of bidding documents
Account Number: 0111003981
BBAN: 003001081791112183
 - Upon submission of the payment slip Interested bidders may download the standard bidding document (SBD) from the Agency website – www.epa.gov.sl or collect a hard copy from the procurement officer. You can also download the Bidding document from NPPA website – www.nppa.gov.sl
 - The submission deadline is 1:pm Local Time on Thursday, 4th January 2024. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 1:pm Local Time on Thursday, 4th January 2024

All bids must be accompanied by:

- Bid Form/Price Schedule
- A valid Business registration certificate
- Bid Security of [12,000.00] from a reputable Commercial Bank; Vehicle
- Bid Security of [4,500.00] from a reputable Commercial Bank; Office Equipment
- A valid tax clearance certificate;
- A valid NASSIT clearance certificate;
- A valid city council certificate
- A signed Integrity Pact; [see attached]
- One Year warranty
- Brochure of the Vehicles to be supplied
- Brochure of Office Equipment to be supplied
- Evidence of similar experience
- Manufacturer's authorization
- [list all other required documents and samples where applicable]

Bids will be publicly opened on 4th January 2024 at 1:05 P.M., in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected and returned unopened to bidders.

Completed application along with all relevant documents must be submitted in a sealed envelope boldly marked: "PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLE AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT" LOT-1 OR LOT-2 to the;

The Senior Admin Officer to the Executive Chairman
Environment Protection Agency – Sierra Leone
2nd Floor, Board Room
92 Dundas Street, Freetown



Internal/External Vacancy Announcement

Overview:

Jhpiego, an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University, has strengthened public health programming for five decades in several countries through evidence-based, quality-focused public health interventions. Jhpiego has worked closely with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, Sierra Leone (MOHS) since 2018 through Momentum Country and Global Leadership Program focusing on Reproductive Maternal Newborn and Child Health and IPC/WASH projects, the US-CDC-funded Global Health Security project, the Health Resources and Services Administration-funded Global Reach II, and the USAID-funded Impact Malaria project

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed many weaknesses in health systems across the globe and raised important issues in health security. USAID has provided support to many countries through the COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM), including Sierra Leone. Three key areas for ongoing support, which were identified by USAID, the Ministry of Health (MoH), Global Fund, and other partners, are a) Integrated Waste Management (IWM), b) Community Led Services Assessment (CLSA), and c) Medical Oxygen Ecosystem (MOE).

MOH has an existing National Healthcare Management Policy and Strategy. However, with the advent of COVID-19, the policy and strategy needs to be updated to interventions on the transport, storage, and destruction of Covid-19 and other infectious diseases related medical waste. The Directorate of Environmental Health of the MoH is thus seeking the services of a TA to provide technical assistance in updating the National Medical Waste Management Policy and Strategy to include Covid-19 and other infectious diseases medical waste management, and at the same time develop a detailed work plan and budget for implementation of the updated policy and strategy document among other tasks.

Through C19RM funding from USAID, Jhpiego will recruit a Technical Advisor to provide technical assistance to the MoH Healthcare Waste Management Strategy to include COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, SOPs development, and capacity building

The Technical Advisor will work in close collaboration with the Director of Environmental Health, Program Manager for Waste Management, MoH, the Jhpiego team in Sierra Leone, and representatives from different Jhpiego US departments to support the successful implementation of the project.

The following vacant position is available for immediate filling:

Position: Technical Advisor

Technical Area: Healthcare Waste Management

Location: Freetown, Sierra Leone

Specific responsibilities include:

Technical

- Work closely with technical partners to guide and support the development of protocols and or standard operating procedures (SOPs) applicable to Sierra Leone's health system and in line with WHO guidelines and recommendations on medical waste management,
- Conduct capacity and training needs assessment at national and sub-national levels and map out key existing capacity gaps.
- Develop a training guide and a hub and spoke mentorship network to cascade training to current and future staff (health care workers and other relevant staff) at national and sub-national levels based on identified capacity gaps.
- Strengthen HR and institutional capacity from the start of implementation of the updated Policy and Strategy.
- Identify other opportunities for Global Fund investments in medical waste management in Sierra Leone.
- Explore innovative and collaborative approaches with non-health system actors on waste management, circular economy of waste, and environmental sustainability.
- Support high-level leadership engagement in advocacy and awareness creation programs on medical waste management – development of IEC materials, the orientation of health workers
- Facilitate and coordinate monitoring visits to health facilities on waste management
- Facilitate Healthcare Waste Management Technical Working Group meetings at periodic intervals in close coordination with key national and sub-national stakeholders.

Program Support and Compliance

- Contribute to/ draft project documents such as weekly, monthly, quarterly reports and final technical reports
- Capture insights from stakeholders through engagement: interviews, workshops, field visits
- Support monitoring of progress on key deliverables and activities outlined in the work plan
- Support planning and execution of workshops and activities
- Support timely deliverables of project activities
- Ensure compliance with Jhpiego and JHU operational policies and regulations
- Ensure compliance with Donor policies and regulations
- In coordination with project leadership, provide management support for routine and ad-hoc meetings, including agenda planning and development, and follow-up on key action items, etc.

Required Qualifications and Experience

- Master's degree or higher in Public health, Environmental engineering or Environmental Health, Waste Management, Sanitation, or a related field with 5 years of related experience
- Prior Experience in designing and implementing WASH and Medical Waste Management and Sanitation interventions in resource-constrained settings
- Experience implementing similar programs funded by USAID preferred
- Prior experience in management and strategy consulting will be preferred
- Experience handling program tasks across project phases (e.g., work plans, reporting)
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail
- Ability to work proactively, organize and manage own work, and assist others to do the same
- Experience preparing high-quality reports for donors/funders preferred
- Excellent written and oral English language skills,
- Good communication skills with diverse groups
- Ability to travel up to 20% of the time.

Qualified persons are required to send their Curriculum Vitae (CV) and application letter to: sl-recruitment@jhpiego.org.

Kindly state in the subject area the position and location you are applying for. CVs without proper labeling will not be considered.

The deadline for the submission of applications is 14th December 2023. Given the likely high number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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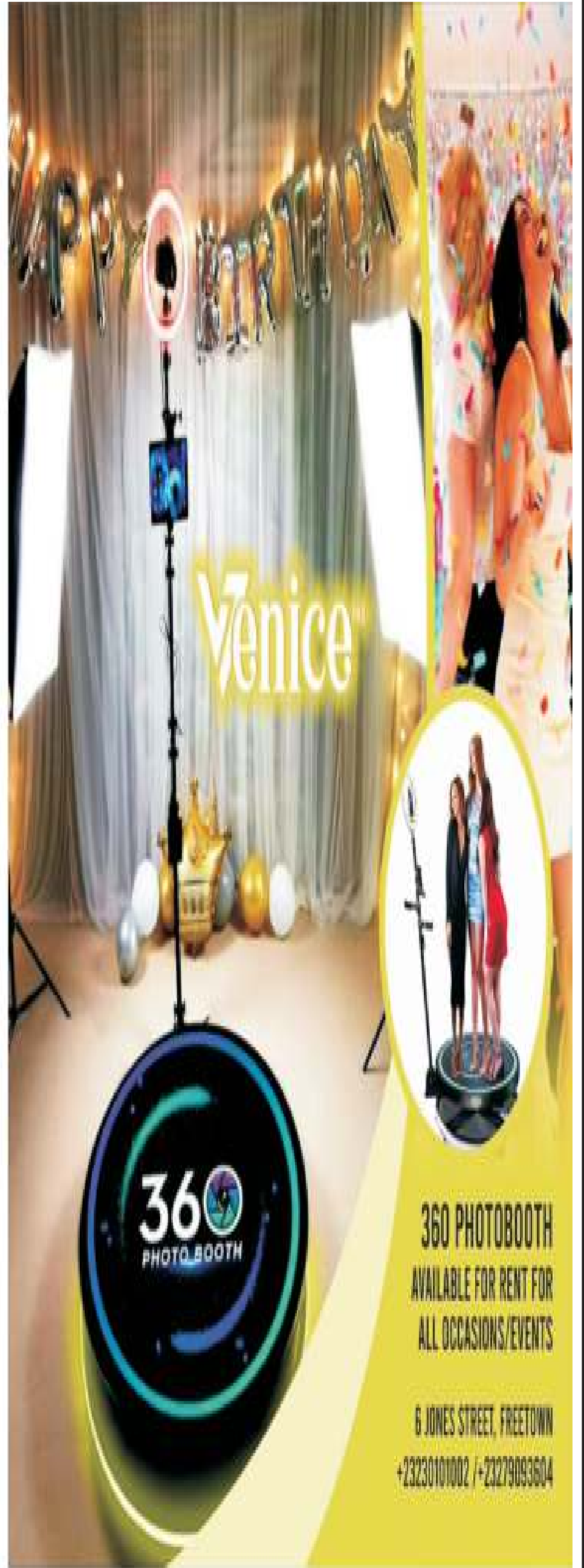
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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Registered Office:

25/27 Siaka Stevens Street
Freetown
Sierra Leone

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the FIFTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Members of the above-named Company will be held at THE FREETOWN CITY COUNCIL AUDITORIUM, 17 WALLACE JOHNSON STREET, FREETOWN on Wednesday 17th January, 2024 at 11:30 A.M. to transact the following business: -

1. To amend, accept and adopt the Minutes of the 49th Annual General Meeting held on 17th November, 2022.
2. To receive the Chairman's Statement.
3. To receive the Audited Financial Statements of the Company for the year ended 31st December, 2022 together with the Reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon.
4. To declare dividend for the year ended 31st December, 2022.
5. To elect/re-elect Directors and to fix their remuneration.
6. To appoint Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.

Dated this 21st day of November, 2023
By Order of the Board



Company Secretary
Freetown Nominees Limited
55 Sir Samuel Lewis Road
Aberdeen
Freetown
+232 78 004 905

NOTE: A member has the right to appoint a proxy to attend and vote for and on the member's behalf. Such proxy need not be a member of the company. A copy of the instrument appointing the proxy should reach the Registered Office of the Company, not later than 48 hours before the meeting.

Hafsatu Kamara named as candidate for IOC Athletes Commission elections

Following the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board on 29 November, the National Olympics Committee of Sierra Leone is delighted to confirm that Sierra Leone's international athlete Hafsatu Kamara has been nominated as a candidate in the upcoming IOC Athletes Commission elections.

The IOC Athletes Commission elections will take place during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Kamara, born on 7 December 1999 in the United States to Sierra Leonean parents and decided to represent her parent's country of origin when approached by that country's officials.

She competed for Sierra Leone at the 2016 Summer Olympics. She finished 8th in her heat for the 100 m and did not qualify for the semifinals. She was the flag bearer for Sierra Leone during the closing ceremony of the Games.

In 2018, she competed at the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast in both the 100m and 200m and was also at the Africa Championships in Asaba, Nigeria.

In 2013, Kamara clocked a Personal Best of 11.61 sec (+0.2 m/s, at Northridge in

the 100m) and 23.83 (+1.1 m/s in the 200m).

Also, in the 400 metres she ran a Personal Best of 57.85 in Pasadena the same year and in 2017, she pulled off 7.53 sec at the Flagstaff in 60 meters.

Hafsatu Kamara holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Sciences and she is a Brand Strategist at Warner Bros Discovery Sports.

She is also the Chairperson Sierra Leone National Olympics Committee Athlete Commission and a Committee member Association of the National Olympics Committee.

A total of 32 athletes, 18 female and 14 male, will seek election to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission (AC) next year at the Olympic Games Paris 2024, and all of them have been approved by the IOC Executive Board (EB). Four positions are up for election.

Four candidates from four different sports will be elected directly by their peers to the IOC Athletes' Commission. All athletes competing at Paris 2024 are eligible to vote in the Athlete365 House in the Olympic Villages during the Olympic Games.

The vote will be supervised and certified by

an Election Committee, appointed by the IOC President, Thomas Bach, whose members are: Nicole Hovertsz (Chair), a representative of the IOC Legal Affairs Commission; Pâquerette Girard Zappelli, as the IOC Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer; and Emma Terho, as a representative of the IOC Athletes' Commission.

The IOC AC is composed of a maximum of 23 members (12 members directly elected by their peers and a maximum of 11 appointed), who serve a term of eight years. Additionally, and to strengthen the engagement with the network of athlete representatives and the athlete community at large, the Chairs (or their representatives) of the Athletes' Commissions of all five Continental Associations, the IPC, WADA and the World Olympians Association are also represented on the IOC AC as liaisons.

The vote is held at every Olympic Games, with four members elected at each Summer Games, and two at each Winter Games. Furthermore, the IOC President, in consultation with the IOC AC Chair, can appoint further Commission members, to ensure a good balance between regions, genders and sports. The Chair and 1st and 2nd Vice-Chairs of the Commission are elected by the Commission members, and the Chair and 1st Vice Chair must also be elected members of the AC.

The IOC AC is represented at all levels of decision-making in the IOC and its members are directly involved in all decisions taken by the IOC. This is one of the main responsibilities of the AC, together with supporting athletes' development in their sporting and non-sporting careers and serving as a link



between the athletes and the IOC.

Any elected member of the IOC AC is put forward for election as an IOC Member. In total, 15 IOC AC members are also IOC Members (including three appointed members who are also elected as IOC Members), the same number as representing the International Federations and National Olympic Committees.

Additionally, the IOC AC Chair is a member of the IOC Executive Board, to ensure that athletes are part of the decision-making process at the highest level.

SLFA launches Football For Schools Project in Sierra Leone



The Sierra Leone Football Association (SLFA) in collaboration with the World governing body, FIFA has launched the the FIFA Football For Schools Project at the Wusum Hotel in Makeni on the 3rd, December 2023 and will continue on the 4th, 5th, and 6th December.

The project will commence with the training of trainers for Physical Health Education Teachers selected from across the country.

The SLFA is working with the Ministry of Sports and the Ministry of Basic Education on this programme to benefit students between the ages of 4 - 14 years.

As part of the project, there will be training of selected PE Teachers from all the regions in Sierra Leone.

The trained teachers will then train other PE Teachers in their respective regions.

This project forms part of the SLFA's quest to develop all aspects of the game and to ensure that members are duly supported by FIFA to boost capacity.

This follows the approval of the Sierra Leone Football Association's application for the FIFA Football for Schools Programme for implementation in accordance with the necessary FIFA guidelines.