

President Bio Commended For Extending Dignity And Respect To Ernest Koroma On His Return

President Julius Maada Bio has been commended for demonstrating political maturity and statesmanship by according former President Ernest Bai Koroma the respect and dignity befitting a former Head of State upon his return to Sierra Leone. The move has been described by citizens as a significant demonstration of leadership and a positive step toward strengthening national cohesion.

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VP Juldeh Jalloh Unveils Plans To Strengthen Grassroots Security



The Government of Sierra Leone is moving to strengthen security and local governance at the chiefdom level with plans to recruit approximately 800 Native Administrative police officers across the country.

The proposed recruitment, announced by Vice President Dr. Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh during a high-level regional consultation in Makeni, is expected to bring security services closer to communities, improve response to local security concerns and reinforce the capacity of chiefdom institutions to maintain peace and order.

The initiative follows concerns raised by Paramount Chiefs about the need for a

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First Lady Fatima Bio's Campaign Delivers Landmark Global Victory



The adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of November 27 as the International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage represents a significant diplomatic and advocacy achievement for Sierra Leone-and a major milestone in the sustained campaign of First Lady Dr. Fatima Maada Bio to protect and empower girls.

The significance of the decision extends far beyond the designation of a date on the international calendar. It places the issue of child, early and forced marriage firmly within the global development and human-rights agenda and provides governments, civil society and international partners with an annual platform to measure progress, renew commitments and demand action. For Sierra Leone, the achievement is

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Sierra Leone's Civic Education Story Shared In Canada



Sierra Leone's evolving story of civic education, leadership and children's rights took centre stage in Canada, as Timothy Sam, Director of Civic Education and Citizens' Engagement at the Ministry of Information and Civic Education (MoICE), shared lessons from the country's journey and ongoing efforts to strengthen active citizenship.

The engagement was hosted by the British Columbia Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC) and the University of the Fraser Valley's Centre for Justice, Equity and Sustainable Action (JESA), bringing together perspectives on civic leadership, citizen participation, civil society and sustainable

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Editorial

The Day the World Chose to Protect Every Girl- Because Sierra Leone Asked It To!

On September 4, in the chamber of the United Nations General Assembly, Sierra Leone did something few nations of our size ever get to do: we set the global calendar. By consensus of all 193 member states, the Assembly adopted resolution A/80/L.99, establishing November 27 as the International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early, and Forced Marriage. This is not a Sierra Leonean holiday. It is now a permanent fixture on the United Nations calendar, meaning every member state that adopted it-all 193 of them-is expected to mark it year after year for as long as the practice it targets persists. That it exists at all, however, traces directly back to one Sierra Leonean woman's persistence: our First Lady, Dr. Fatima Maada Bio.

That distinction matters, because initiatives at the United

What followed was the harder work: turning that shared conviction into a formal resolution that Sierra Leone itself introduced and persuading over sixty other nations- among them Cabo Verde, Morocco, Rwanda, Namibia, Costa Rica, India, Sudan, and Afghanistan- to co-sponsor it.

Nations do not simply arrive. They are built, negotiated, and defended, often over years, by people willing to spend political capital on a cause with no guarantee of success. Dr. Bio began laying this ground as far back as March 2026, standing alongside Bhuwan Ribhu of Just Rights for Children at the UN Commission on the Status of Women, lending Sierra Leone's voice to an idea that was, at that point, still just an idea. What followed was the harder work: turning that shared conviction into a formal resolution that Sierra Leone itself introduced and persuading over sixty other nations- among them Cabo Verde, Morocco, Rwanda, Namibia, Costa Rica, India, Sudan, and Afghanistan- to co-sponsor it. Nations that agree on little else, across radically different regions, political systems, and religious traditions, found common ground here. That is not accidental. It is diplomacy, executed with skill by a Sierra Leonean, on behalf of the daughters of the whole world.

When the resolution passed, Dr. Bio told reporters outside the General Assembly Hall that the moment was "far more than symbolic"- a mandate demanding real action from every government now bound by it. That framing is deliberate and should shape how Sierra Leoneans read this achievement, too.

An International Day of Observance can become a hollow ritual, marked once a year in speeches and then forgotten for the other 364 days. In the very breath of her victory, Dr. Bio was already insisting that the world not let that happen- and that insistence is worth holding her and every government that signed on to.

It is worth being honest, too, about why this fight began at home before it ever reached New York. Nationally representative data puts roughly three in ten Sierra Leonean girls married or in union before the age of eighteen, with rates considerably higher in Koinadugu, Tonkolili, Kambia, and Port Loko than in Freetown. That reality is precisely why the government's 2024 Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, criminalising marriage under eighteen, was never a symbolic gesture. It was the domestic companion to the international leadership Dr. Bio has now delivered. A country that legislates against a practice at home and then persuades the world to mark a day against it abroad is not performing virtue for an audience. It is demonstrating the kind of consistency between word and deed that gives a small nation's voice real weight in rooms most small nations never enter.

That weight carries furthest, closest to home. West and Central Africa holds the unwelcome distinction of the highest child marriage prevalence on the African continent, and the second highest in the world after South Asia. A Sierra Leonean-led resolution, backed by neighbours across the region, now gives AU states a shared instrument and a shared date around which to organise national campaigns and hold one another accountable. Rwanda's role as a key co-sponsor is an early signal that this is already becoming a continental effort rather than a Sierra Leonean one alone- which is exactly the outcome good diplomacy is meant to produce.

It also matters that Dr. Bio did not arrive at this fight solely as Sierra Leone's First Lady. She holds the presidency of the Organisation of African First Ladies for Development, and she drew on that standing to help build the coalition behind this resolution. For Africa, that is a rare instance of continental soft power converted into binding international recognition- a UN observance day that exists because African leadership put it there, rather than because Africa was consulted on someone else's agenda.

And the coalition itself is the most striking evidence of how far this has travelled beyond Sierra Leone. Afghanistan and Sudan, India and Costa Rica, Morocco and Namibia- nations spanning every region, income level, and political system co-sponsored this resolution. India has gone further still, tying its own domestic "Child Marriage Free India" campaign to this same date, meaning November 27 will now be observed simultaneously in Freetown and New Delhi, in Kigali and San José, and in every one of the 193 capitals bound by this resolution. A cause once treated as a concern confined to the Global South has been recognised, unanimously, as a universal human rights obligation tied to the Sustainable Development Goals' 2030 target of ending the practice altogether.

None of this closes the distance between a UN resolution and a girl in Koinadugu who is, tonight, still at risk. Dr. Bio herself said as much: this day must generate tangible progress, not commemoration alone. But that necessary caution should not obscure what has already been achieved. A Sierra Leonean woman walked into the world's most consequential diplomatic chamber and walked out having changed the international calendar for every nation on earth, with the backing of more than sixty other countries spanning every continent. That is a Sierra Leonean achievement the whole nation can rightly claim- and a standard of leadership worth expecting more of from every government that raised its hand on September 4, starting this November 27.

Governance & Development

By Kai Mansa-Musa, Government Information Services, MolCE

The preparations for the forthcoming International Conference on Information Commissioners, scheduled for 28-30 September 2026, represent an important opportunity for Sierra Leone to consolidate its growing profile as a destination for international conferences and high-level global engagements.

The conference, which will bring together the International Conference of Information Commissioners and a second international information conference coordinated at the global level by UNESCO, is particularly significant because it will be hosted in Sierra Leone for the first time and, as noted during the Ministry's strategic engagement, represents only the second occasion on which such an event is being hosted in Africa.

Its significance extends beyond the mandate of the Right to Access Information Commission (RAIC). The Minister of Information and Civic Education, Hon. Chernoh Bah, underscored that although the conference is being led by RAIC, it should be regarded as a Government of Sierra Leone Information Sector Conference, requiring the collective effort of Ministries, Departments and Agencies. He linked the successful hosting of the event directly to the instruction and aspiration of President Julius Maada Bio that Sierra Leone should become a destination for conference tourism.

This presidential ambition gives the conference a much broader national significance. International conferences bring together governments, international organisations, development partners, professionals, academics, investors and other influential visitors. Their successful hosting therefore provides an opportunity not only to advance the substantive objectives of the conference, but also to demonstrate Sierra Leone's capacity in areas such as hospitality, accommodation, transportation, conference facilities, digital connectivity, security, media management, protocol, tourism and event logistics.

The preparations reported to the Ministry demonstrate encouraging progress. RAIC indicated that preparations were already approximately 85-90 percent complete, while rooms had been secured in two hotels and seven villas were ready to accommodate participants, with an additional seven villas expected to become available. Importantly, the conference will also provide an opportunity to showcase the new conference venue in Lungi and its associated facilities to an international audience.

The approach being adopted also demonstrates the importance of inter-ministerial coordination. An inter-ministerial engagement has already brought together relevant Government institutions whose cooperation is necessary for the successful delivery of the event, while the Ministry of Finance has released funding and indicated its willingness to continue mobilising resources. The Minister has further called for

International Conference on Information: Advancing Sierra Leone's Conference Tourism Ambition

the expertise, experience and commitment of all participating institutions to be brought to bear on the preparations.

Building on the ECOWAS Mid-Year Summit Experience

The International Conference on Information should therefore be approached as a deliberate opportunity to build on the experience of the recently hosted ECOWAS Mid-Year Summit. The Summit provided Sierra Leone with a practical demonstration of what is required to receive, accommodate, secure, coordinate, communicate with and provide services to a large number of high-level regional and international delegates.

The lessons from that experience should be systematically captured and incorporated into preparations for the September conference. Areas such as protocol, airport and border reception, transportation, accommodation, venue management, security coordination, media accreditation and coverage, digital connectivity, public communication, branding, printing, hospitality and inter-agency coordination should all benefit from the experience gained during the ECOWAS engagement.

The document itself points to one such practical lesson: during the ECOWAS Mid-Year Conference, the Minister advocated for Government printing requirements to be undertaken through the Government Printing Department, with the rationale that expenditure associated with hosting international events should, where possible, contribute to domestic institutional capacity and allow part of the expenditure to circulate back into the public revenue system. The same approach is being extended to the forthcoming information conference.

Similarly, the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation's experience in providing media coverage for the ECOWAS Mid-Year Summit provides an institutional foundation upon which the information conference can build. SLBC has already demonstrated its capacity to provide coverage of major national and international events, although the challenges identified regarding ageing equipment, power supply, fibre connectivity and livestreaming underline the need for adequate technical preparation ahead of major international engagements.

From One-Off Events to a Sustainable Conference Tourism Strategy

The central opportunity is to move beyond viewing international conferences as isolated events. Each successful conference should become part of a deliberate national strategy for establishing Sierra Leone as a competitive conference-tourism destination.

The ECOWAS Mid-Year Summit demonstrated that Sierra Leone can successfully mobilise its institutions around a major international

gathering. The forthcoming International Conference on Information provides another opportunity to demonstrate that capacity, while simultaneously showcasing improvements in conference infrastructure, hospitality and the broader visitor experience.

The new conference facilities in Lungi are particularly important in this regard. Their utilisation for an international gathering provides an opportunity to test their functionality under real conference conditions, identify gaps, document lessons and position the facilities for future international events.

The September conference should consequently be treated as both an international information-sector engagement and a strategic national showcase. The objective should be to ensure that every participant leaves Sierra Leone not only with a positive impression of the conference itself, but with renewed confidence in Sierra Leone's ability to host future regional and international meetings.

A Whole-of-Government Responsibility

The conference should therefore reinforce a whole-of-government approach to conference tourism. RAIC may be the technical and institutional lead, but the successful delivery of the event requires the combined contribution of the Ministry of Information and Civic Education, Ministry of Finance, tourism authorities, security institutions, transport and aviation stakeholders, media institutions, the Government Printing Department and other relevant MDAs.

This collaborative approach is consistent with the Minister's emphasis that the collective strength of the Ministry and its agencies is essential to advancing Sierra Leone's information agenda, and that collaboration, coordination, innovation and collective action must underpin major national programmes.

Ultimately, the International Conference on Information presents Sierra Leone with an opportunity to transform the lessons of the ECOWAS Mid-Year Summit into an institutionalised model for hosting international conferences. If properly documented and evaluated, the experience can provide a practical blueprint for attracting and successfully hosting future conferences, thereby supporting President Bio's broader ambition of positioning Sierra Leone as a recognised destination for international conference tourism.

The September conference should therefore not be seen simply as another event to be successfully concluded. It should be regarded as another important building block in the transformation of Sierra Leone into a country capable of competing for, hosting and benefiting economically and diplomatically from the growing international conference industry.

Focus On Peace Building

Mange Bureh Leaders Call For Peace After Political Tensions



Political and community leaders in Mange Bureh Chiefdom, Port Loko District, have called for peace and dialogue following tensions linked to an internal APC contest for a parliamentary seat. The call was made on 29 August 2026 during a peace engagement organised by the Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion (ICPNC) and the Sierra Leone Police under the theme, "Let Peace Reign for the Sake of Mange Bureh Community." The chiefdom has experienced tensions following three unsuccessful attempts to conduct the APC internal election, with supporters of two aspirants reportedly clashing at different points in the process. During the meeting, APC and SLPP leaders in the chiefdom discussed the tensions and agreed that political differences should not be allowed to threaten the peace of the community. The SLPP leadership agreed to support efforts to resolve the APC's internal differences and allow the party to conduct its election peacefully. The two sides also agreed to continue discussions with ICPNC on ways to find a lasting solution

to the situation. ICPNC Regional Coordinator Edward Koroma urged political leaders and residents to put the interests of Mange Bureh first and use dialogue to resolve their differences. He reminded the community that when political disagreements lead to violence, the consequences affect more than those directly involved and can disrupt the lives and livelihoods of ordinary residents. Mr Koroma also explained the mandate of ICPNC to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts and spoke about the Commission's work with communities to address tensions before they escalate. AIG Hillary Sao Kanu, who is in

The engagement brought together traditional and political leaders, security personnel, women, young people and residents to discuss the situation and find ways to prevent further disturbances. charge of the North West, called on residents to work with the Police to maintain peace and security. She warned against drug abuse, including Kush, and other activities that could contribute to violence and insecurity. The traditional leadership also welcomed the peace initiative. Paramount Chief of Bai Bureh, Salu Lugbu, expressed support for the work of ICPNC and the Police and said he backed lawful efforts to restore peace and stability in the chiefdom.

The engagement gave political representatives an opportunity to discuss their differences and consider how they could work together to prevent further disturbances. The parties agreed to maintain communication and continue discussions with ICPNC as they work towards a lasting solution. Further engagement is expected to bring together the relevant political and community leaders to examine the causes of the tensions and

agree on practical steps to maintain peace. The engagement was part of a wider joint effort by ICPNC and the Sierra Leone Police to identify communities facing tensions across the North West and work with local leaders to address them before they develop into serious conflict. For residents of Mange Bureh, the discussions have opened the way for continued dialogue at a time when political differences have placed pressure on relations within the community. The leaders' message was that political competition should be handled peacefully and that the interests of the wider community must remain above political differences.



Spotlight On Health Care

Building a Health System that Saves Lives: MoH Strengthens Hospitals, Referral, Blood Security and Medical Equipment Capacity

As Sierra Leone advances its 300 Days of Activism campaign to end preventable maternal deaths, child deaths and zero-dose children, the Ministry of Health is strengthening the systems that make life-saving care possible. The Investments in clinical readiness and a new mentorship programme for about 60 medical equipment technicians reinforce Sierra Leone's Triple Zero ambition. Beyond the visible campaign activities, investments in hospitals, specialised clinical services, referral systems, blood availability and essential commodities are helping to address the conditions that determine whether a patient survives an emergency. A mother may reach a health facility on time, but her survival can still depend on whether the hospital has a functioning theatre, trained staff, blood and the medicines required to respond. Similarly, a child with a severe illness needs timely referral, reliable emergency services, functioning equipment and essential supplies. These four areas therefore form one connected foundation for the Ministry's Triple Zero ambition.

Hospitals and specialised clinical services: strengthening the readiness to save lives

Through the Directorate of Hospitals and Ambulance Services, under the leadership of Director Ibrahim Foday Musa, the Ministry of Health has been strengthening hospital readiness and specialised clinical services to respond to emergencies and sustain the gains of the campaign. The Directorate's annual performance review, performance contracts signed by Medical Superintendents, monthly general cleaning across government hospitals and the mapping of hospital partners are part of efforts to improve accountability, infection prevention and control, and the coordination of support around actual service gaps. A patient complaint call line, now posted in government facilities, also provides a channel for problems to reach management and receive attention. Supervision visits to the ongoing construction of the Moyamba and Pujehun hospitals, together with on-the-spot checks across Western Area hospitals, are helping to keep infrastructure and service readiness under review. These interventions are important because the quality of emergency care depends not only on the availability of health workers, but also on whether the facilities in which they work are prepared to respond.

Capacity building: investing in the people who keep hospitals functional

One of the most important and least visible investments in the health sector is the development of the workforce responsible for maintaining medical equipment and supporting healthcare technology. In a recent development, Sierra Leone's Ministry of Health, in partnership with UNICEF, launched a Medical Equipment Technicians' Mentorship Programme aimed at strengthening the country's biomedical engineering and healthcare technology workforce. The programme brings together about 60 medical equipment technicians to strengthen technical skills, share knowledge and promote effective maintenance practices. The initiative is expected to improve equipment functionality, support quality healthcare delivery and contribute to better patient outcomes. The mentorship programme complements the first cohort of a biomedical technology certificate course completed with the College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences, University of Sierra Leone with technical support from UNICEF, Mercy Ships and Partners in Health. Hospital Management Teams have also completed a leadership and management course delivered in collaboration with the University of Global Health Equity in Rwanda.

Why this investment matters

According to the Chief Medical Officer, Doctor Mustapha Kabba, a hospital may have a ventilator, oxygen equipment, theatre equipment or diagnostic machinery, but if the equipment is not functioning, the service it is meant to provide is unavailable. Dr. Kabba maintained that, strengthening the biomedical engineering and healthcare technology workforce is directly linked to maternal and child survival, adding that trained technicians help ensure that life-saving equipment is maintained, repaired and available when clinicians need it. The investment is therefore not simply about purchasing equipment; it is about building the capacity to keep that equipment working. The campaign period has also seen substantial additions to hospital infrastructure and diagnostic capacity. Solar systems are being installed and monitored at twelve hospitals with support from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, helping to strengthen the reliability of services that depend on electricity, including cold-chain operations and theatre lighting. A 128-slice CT scanner has been installed and commissioned at Connaught Hospital, while Kenema Government Hospital has received a 64-slice scanner. These additions expand

diagnostic capacity that previously required referral or travel abroad. Other investments include staff buses to improve health-worker mobility, a regional hospital assessment to guide the rehabilitation, equipping and staffing of emergency and high-dependency units, and the construction and commissioning of a National Burns Unit at Connaught Hospital. At Ola During Children's Hospital, the emergency and resuscitation unit has been renovated and upgraded. This is particularly significant for child survival, given the hospital's heavy paediatric workload. Together, these interventions strengthen the ability of hospitals to receive, diagnose and treat patients when they need care most.

Referral and emergency care: making the journey to treatment safer

Referral is one of the points at which preventable deaths can occur. A woman may develop a complication at a peripheral health unit, but her survival depends on how quickly she reaches a hospital capable of providing the care she needs. Maternal death reviews during the campaign have repeatedly identified delays in reaching care, including ambulance delays, transport barriers in riverine and hard-to-reach areas, movement between facilities without proper referral and the use of commercial transport for critically ill patients. The Ministry's response has been to strengthen referral as a complete system rather than treating it as a single service. This includes auditing referrals in deaths involving delayed or refused referral, or death in transit; improving coordination between facilities; strengthening the documentation that accompanies patients; and tightening ambulance coordination through the National Emergency Medical Service. But referral does not end when the ambulance arrives. The receiving hospital must also be ready to transfuse, operate or resuscitate. A fast referral to a facility without the necessary capacity can simply move the place where a preventable death occurs. For this reason, facility action plans are being used to improve emergency readiness at receiving hospitals. At Magburaka Government Hospital in Tonkolili, for example, the focus includes preparing operating rooms, improving the time from decision to surgery, and strengthening communication and transport arrangements for referrals. The campaign's equity commitment is especially important here. A woman in a riverine chiefdom may face a longer and more dangerous journey than one living near a regional hospital. Reducing preventable deaths therefore requires the health system to recognise and address these geographical disadvantages, rather than treating them as unavoidable.

Blood security: keeping mothers alive when haemorrhage strikes

Blood availability is one of the clearest examples of why hospital readiness, referral, blood and commodities must work together. Postpartum haemorrhage remains the leading cause of maternal death. A skilled midwife may recognise the emergency and a referral may reach the hospital, but survival can still depend on whether blood is available when the woman arrives. During the campaign, the National Safe Blood Service, working with the northern regional blood transfusion centre at Makeni Regional Hospital and the Bombali District Health Management Team, convened a regional technical working group involving Bombali, Tonkolili, Koinadugu, Falaba and Karene. The group agreed on the operational roll-out of a decentralised hub-and-spokes model for safe blood. Under this model, blood collected at a regional hub is screened, processed into components, stored under proper cold-chain conditions and dispatched to spoke hospitals on demand. This allows a donation to benefit several districts rather than remaining where it was collected. The scale of the need is substantial. Makeni Regional Hospital alone requires at least fifteen units of blood a day, yet this demand is often unmet. The need for a sustainable system is becoming more urgent as donor-supported programmes, including those from Concern Worldwide, come to an end.

Community ownership of blood donation

The response is not limited to technical systems. It also depends on communities taking ownership of the blood supply. In Bombali, all twelve paramount chiefs have been convened to agree on a monthly blood-donor drive per chiefdom. This is an innovative approach to maintaining a continuous supply throughout the year. Voluntary donation drives, including an exercise conducted with the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society at Station Road in Makeni, are also helping to build stocks for emergencies, surgery and maternal care. For the Triple Zero campaign, blood security is not merely a laboratory or hospital issue; it is a community responsibility that directly supports the survival of mothers and children.

Medicines, vaccines and commodity security: ensuring care is available when needed

A health facility cannot deliver effective care if the medicines and supplies required for treatment are missing. During the campaign period, the National Medical Supplies

Agency delivered consignments of Free Health Care drugs and medical supplies to district medical stores, covering first- and second-quarter allocations. These deliveries directly support the Triple Zero goals by helping ensure that essential commodities reach the facilities and communities that need them. In Bombali, the delivery was received in the presence of the District Medical Officer, civil society, traditional leaders and other stakeholders, with commitments that the commodities would be managed transparently and used for their intended purpose. The Free Health Care commodities are intended for pregnant women, lactating mothers, children under five, persons with disabilities and Ebola survivors. The emphasis from both the Agency and civil society has been on ensuring that these supplies reach the last mile rather than remaining in central stores. Commodity security also extends beyond medicines. Supportive supervision of the maternal and child health handbook found supply-chain vulnerabilities, including stock-outs at district stores and low buffer stocks at facilities. This illustrates an important lesson: the health system must protect every item that supports the continuum of care, from magnesium sulphate and oxytocin to blood and the handbook a mother carries between visits. When a death review identifies that a woman died from postpartum haemorrhage and the facility had no uterotonics available, the finding is not simply a statistic. It is a supply failure that must be addressed before the next emergency.

The link to zero-dose children and immunisation

The Triple Zero campaign is not only about treating illness; it is also about preventing it. For zero-dose children, the same systems that support hospital care are essential to sustaining immunisation gains. Vaccines must be available, stored under the correct conditions, transported safely and delivered through functioning health facilities and outreach services. The investment in solar systems and cold-chain readiness is therefore relevant not only to hospital emergencies but also to the reliability of immunisation services. A vaccine that cannot be stored safely, or a child who cannot be reached because transport and referral systems are weak, remains outside the protection of the health system. The campaign's approach to zero-dose children has emphasised finding and immunising children who have never received any vaccine. This requires the health system to move beyond central stores and fixed facilities, reaching communities through district health teams, community health workers, traditional leaders, women's groups and local councils. Commodity security strengthens that effort by ensuring that vaccines and other essential supplies are available when health workers reach those communities.

A system that must work together

The most important lesson from these four fronts is that preventable deaths are often caused by failures across a chain of care, not by one missing service alone. A woman with postpartum haemorrhage needs:

- * A health worker who recognises the emergency.
- * A referral system that moves her quickly.
- * An ambulance or transport arrangement that can reach her.
- * A hospital with a functioning theatre.
- * Blood and essential medicines available on arrival.
- * Trained staff and functioning equipment to provide treatment.

A child with a severe illness needs the same kind of coordinated response: early recognition, timely referral, functioning emergency services, trained staff and essential commodities. For zero-dose children, the chain begins even earlier: vaccines must be available, safely stored and delivered through services that reach every community. This is why the Ministry of Health's investments in hospitals, referral, blood and commodity security are so important to the 300 Days of Activism campaign. They are the systems that turn early action into effective treatment, and effective treatment into survival.

Sustaining the gains beyond 300 days

The Directorate of Hospitals and Ambulance Services under the leadership of Director Ibrahim Foday Musa believes that the improvements made during the campaign are contributing to the changes in mortality figures. The challenge now is to ensure that these gains are maintained. That means continuing to invest in hospital readiness, strengthening referral systems, expanding blood availability, ensuring reliable supplies and building the workforce capable of maintaining equipment and delivering quality care. The recent Medical Equipment Technicians' Mentorship Programme is an important part of this long-term effort. By strengthening the skills of about 60 technicians, the Ministry and UNICEF are investing in the people who will help keep medical equipment functional and healthcare services reliable. The campaign's ambition of zero preventable maternal deaths, zero preventable child deaths and zero-dose children cannot be achieved through one intervention alone. It requires a health system that is ready before the emergency occurs, capable of responding when it does, and committed to ensuring that every mother and child can access the care they need.

Sierra Leone Prepares Heroic Welcome For Miss World Contestant Mariyam Lorba Konneh



stakeholders, and well-wishers from across the country to celebrate a young woman who carried the nation's flag with dignity, confidence, and grace on the international stage.

Representing Sierra Leone among more than one hundred of the world's most accomplished young women, Mariyam Lorba Konneh distinguished herself through her elegance, intelligence, cultural pride, and commitment to social causes. Her participation showcased Sierra Leone's rich cultural heritage and highlighted the country's growing profile as a destination of beauty, resilience, and opportunity.

In a statement issued ahead of her arrival, the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs expressed profound gratitude to the beauty queen for her outstanding representation of the nation.

On behalf of His Excellency the President, the Government, and the people of Sierra Leone, the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs extends its heartfelt appreciation to Mariyam Lorba Konneh for serving as an exceptional ambassador for our country. She represented Sierra Leone with honour, humility, confidence, and patriotism, demonstrating the values and aspirations of our people before a global audience.

The Ministry further commended Mariyam's poise throughout the competition, noting that her performance had inspired many young Sierra Leoneans, especially girls, to pursue excellence and believe in their potential.

The Minister of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Nabeela Farida Tunis, described Mariyam's journey as a source of immense national pride.

"Mariyam has shown the world the beauty, intelligence, resilience, and cultural richness of Sierra Leone. Beyond the pageant stage, she has embodied the spirit of our nation and served as a positive role model for our youth.

We are proud of her achievements and look forward to welcoming her home as one of our distinguished ambassadors." The Minister added that her participation

aligns with the government's broader efforts to use culture, tourism, arts, and international engagements to project a positive image of Sierra Leone globally.

Across Freetown and beyond, citizens have been expressing admiration for Mariyam's accomplishment and the dignified manner in which she represented the nation.

A university student described her as "a symbol of determination and self-confidence who carried Sierra Leone with pride."

A market trader at Eastern Police praised her humility and grace, saying her performance had given Sierra Leoneans "another reason to celebrate our country on the world stage."

A youth leader in Bo noted that Mariyam's appearance at the competition demonstrated that Sierra Leonean women can compete confidently anywhere in the world.

Meanwhile, tourism stakeholders welcomed the international visibility generated by her participation, emphasising that every global platform presents an opportunity to showcase Sierra Leone's culture, hospitality, and tourism potential.

Observers say the planned reception is not merely a welcome for a beauty pageant participant but a celebration of national identity, cultural pride, and youth empowerment.

As preparations gather momentum, excitement continues to build for what promises to be a colourful and memorable homecoming ceremony. Traditional performances, cultural displays, and welcome activities are expected to accompany the reception, turning the occasion into a celebration of Sierra Leone's talent and global presence.

For many Sierra Leoneans, Mariyam Lorba Konneh returns not only as Miss World Sierra Leone but as a proud daughter of the nation who stood before the world with confidence and distinction.

And when she arrives home, a grateful nation will be waiting to say, "Welcome home, Mariyam." Sierra Leone is proud of you.

The Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs (MTCA), on behalf of the Government and people of Sierra Leone, is spearheading plans for a grand and rousing welcome home for Miss World Sierra Leone 2026, Mariyam Lorba Konneh, following her commendable participation at the prestigious Miss World Beauty Pageant held in Vietnam.

The homecoming celebration is expected to bring together government officials, members of the diplomatic community, cultural performers, youth groups, tourism

Ministry of Health Partners with Diego González Rivas Foundation to Provide Free Thoracoscopic Surgeries at Connaught Hospital



The Ministry of Health, in partnership with the internationally renowned Diego González Rivas Foundation, has commenced a free thoracoscopic surgical mission at Connaught Hospital in Freetown, providing eligible patients with access to advanced, minimally invasive chest surgery. The four-day humanitarian surgical mission, running from September 1 to 4, 2026, is focused on patients who require specialised thoracic procedures but may otherwise be unable to afford such care.

The mission introduces Video-Assisted Thoracoscopic Surgery (VATS), a modern surgical technique that enables surgeons to operate on the lungs and chest cavity through small incisions using a video camera. Unlike conventional open-chest surgery, the procedure minimises tissue damage and can result in less

pain, fewer complications, shorter hospital stays and faster recovery.

Delivering the keynote address, the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Mustapha Kabba, expressed appreciation to the Diego González Rivas Foundation for providing technical expertise, specialised equipment and training support to the Connaught Hospital surgical team. Dr. Kabba also thanked President Julius Maada Bio for appointing him to serve as Chief Medical Officer, noting that his professional journey in public health service began at Connaught Hospital.

"My service to the nation started at Connaught Hospital, and my first action as Chief Medical Officer is also starting here at Connaught Hospital," he noted. He described the surgical mission as an important opportunity for Sierra Leone to expand access to specialised healthcare while strengthening the capacity of local health professionals.

Dr. Kabba commended the international surgical team, local doctors, nurses and other health workers for the strong collaboration that has made the mission possible.

He emphasised that the partnership goes beyond treating patients, as it is also designed to build sustainable local capacity in advanced thoracic surgery.

Dr. Kabba highlighted the uniqueness of the initiative, explaining that the Foundation has deployed a specially equipped mobile hospital dedicated to thoracoscopic surgery.

According to him, the mobile unit, valued at approximately US\$2 million, is designed to travel around the world to bring advanced minimally invasive thoracic surgery to patients in countries where access to such specialised services remains limited.

He said Sierra Leone will serve as the headquarters and operational base for the mobile surgical unit, with the possibility of the facility being deployed periodically to neighbouring countries, including Liberia and Guinea, depending on need.

"This is not only about performing surgeries," Dr. Kabba said, stressing the importance of transferring knowledge and skills to Sierra Leonean health professionals.

He explained that local surgeons will have the opportunity to work alongside the visiting international experts and receive hands-on training in video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery. The surgical mission is being led by renowned thoracic surgeon Dr. Diego González Rivas, who

expressed his excitement about working in Sierra Leone.

Dr. González Rivas praised the people of Sierra Leone for what he described as their resilience and welcoming nature. He expressed gratitude to the Government of Sierra Leone and the Chief Medical Officer for the support, hospitality and cooperation extended to the team during their stay.

The Foundation's humanitarian missions seek to make advanced minimally invasive thoracic surgery accessible to patients in resource-limited settings while simultaneously strengthening local surgical capacity.

The Senior Matron at Connaught Hospital, Fatmata Kanja Jalloh, thanked the Diego González Rivas Foundation for its support and contribution to improving specialised surgical services at the hospital.

She also congratulated Dr. Mustapha Kabba on his appointment as Chief Medical Officer, commending his leadership and contribution to the health sector.

The Ministry of Health views the partnership as part of broader efforts to improve access to quality specialised healthcare, reduce the need for patients to seek treatment abroad and build a stronger, more self-reliant health system.

The four-day mission at Connaught Hospital therefore marks more than a humanitarian medical outreach. It is an opportunity to save lives today while building the skills, systems and partnerships needed to deliver advanced surgical care in Sierra Leone tomorrow.

©? Ministry of Health Comms Unit

Ministry of Health, UNICEF Launch Mentorship Programme to Strengthen Medical Equipment Maintenance



The Ministry of Health, in partnership with UNICEF, has launched a Medical Equipment Technicians' Mentorship Programme aimed at strengthening Sierra Leone's biomedical engineering and healthcare technology workforce. The programme, held at Family Kingdom in Aberdeen, Freetown, brings together medical equipment technicians, healthcare institutions, academic partners, and development organisations to share knowledge, strengthen technical skills, and promote effective maintenance practices.

In his opening remarks, the Chairman of the programme who double as the Senior Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Andrew Sorie, thanked UNICEF for its support and welcomed participants to the training. He said the initiative reflects the Ministry's commitment to enhancing the quality of healthcare services through stronger technical capacity. Giving an overview of the programme, Dinsie Williams explained that the initiative seeks to improve the maintenance and management of medical equipment in health facilities, reduce equipment downtime, and support the delivery of quality and safe healthcare services.

Speaking on lessons learned from the certificate course, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of COMAHS, Professor James Russell, highlighted the importance of the training in developing a competent workforce capable of supporting the health sector's equipment needs. The UNICEF representative, Dr. Vandana Joshi, explained the reasons for supporting the initiative and outlined the expectations for participants. She encouraged them to make judicious use of the mentorship programme and apply the knowledge gained to improve equipment maintenance in health facilities.

Delivering the keynote address on behalf of the Minister of Health and the leadership of the Ministry, the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Mustapha S. Kabba, thanked UNICEF and other partners for their support in making the initiative possible. Dr. Kabba stressed that the value of medical equipment depends not only on its procurement but also on the ability to maintain it and keep it functioning. He encouraged participants to develop the capacity to advise hospital management on equipment needs, prepare maintenance plans, maintain inventories, and contribute to budgeting for repairs and preventive maintenance. "Your role is very important, and we value it highly. We're going to make sure that we give you the requisite support you need to continue doing your work."

The CMO also emphasised the importance of collaboration between biomedical engineers, hospital management, and clinicians, noting that technicians should be able to identify equipment needs and support future procurement planning.

He described the initiative as a sustainability approach that would continue to benefit the

health sector beyond the support of development partners. He explained that the decision to use an academic institution for the training was intended to provide participants with a structured learning pathway and opportunities for professional advancement.

"This is an opportunity to make you see that the Ministry understands the complex situation in which you find yourself, and we're going to work with you to build your capacity." Dr. Kabba further called for greater opportunities for women in the biomedical engineering field and underscored the importance of institutionalising the biomedical engineering unit within the Ministry's structures, with appropriate policies and guidelines to guide its operations. In his vote of thanks, the Head of Maintenance at Connaught Hospital, Abdul Turay, thanked the Ministry of Health and UNICEF for their support. He described the programme as an investment in people and professional development, noting that its ultimate goal is to improve the quality and safety of healthcare delivery. Turay expressed appreciation to the leadership of the Ministry, particularly the Minister of Health, in launching the biomedical

engineering unit, and to the Chief Medical Officer for his leadership in establishing the unit under the Directorate of Hospitals and Ambulance Services. He also thanked the leadership of COMAHS for its role in advancing education, professional development, and collaboration within the health sector. According to Turay, the programme has already contributed to the development of 45 biomedical technicians and engineers, who have received training and are now better positioned to support medical equipment maintenance.

He encouraged participants to approach the mentorship programme with commitment, openness, and a willingness to learn and share knowledge. "We are here because we care. The equipment exists for the patient."

The programme concluded with a symbolic signing of the mentorship agreement between the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of COMAHS and the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Mustapha S. Kabba.

The official launch and handover of medical equipment and furniture further demonstrated the Ministry's commitment to strengthening healthcare infrastructure and ensuring that investments in medical equipment translate into improved services for patients.

MoPED, UNDP Review Progress, Accelerate Implementation of 2026 Annual Workplan

The Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED), in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has conducted a Mid-Year Review of the 2026 Annual Workplan on Thursday 3rd September, 2026 at the Ministry Conference Hall, Towerhill, Freetown, bringing together key implementing institutions to assess progress, identify areas requiring further attention and agree on measures to accelerate delivery.

The review provided an opportunity for participating institutions to present progress on activities supported under the UNDP Annual Workplan, highlight achievements, and discuss implementation priorities for the remaining period of the year.

Steering the meeting, the Deputy Development Secretary I, Mr. Usman Cherry Conteh, emphasised the importance of moving from planning to accelerated implementation. He encouraged institutions to address outstanding bottlenecks, particularly procurement-related delays, and ensure that activities are delivered within agreed timelines.

He noted that effective utilisation of available resources was critical to strengthening confidence in Sierra Leone's implementation capacity and positioning institutions to attract continued development support.

The institutional presentations provided comprehensive delivery updates, capturing activities planned under the 2026 Annual Workplan, activities implemented so far, key constraints and challenges affecting delivery, proposed remedial actions to fast-track implementation, as well as a broad outlook of planned priorities and activities for 2027. The presentations therefore provided an opportunity for institutions to assess progress against commitments, identify implementation gaps and agree on practical measures to address outstanding issues and improve delivery.

Dr. Sheka Bangura, Director of Planning, Policy and Research, highlighted the importance of ensuring that development interventions respond to national priorities and produce measurable results. He also stressed the need for stronger coordination among implementing institutions and development partners to maximise the impact of available resources.

In his remarks, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Kevin Petrini stressed the need for a more strategic approach to development financing, particularly one that uses initial resources to leverage additional investment and partnerships.

He encouraged MDAs to move beyond



proposals focused solely on procuring items and instead develop initiatives capable of generating wider development impact and attracting additional resources. He described the approach as one of co-creation, in which Government and development partners work together to identify priority needs, make strategic contributions and mobilise further resources.

Petrini also called on institutions to accelerate implementation, clear outstanding advances and address procurement bottlenecks. He emphasised that resources not utilised within the implementation period could ultimately be reallocated, underscoring the need for institutions to demonstrate strong absorptive capacity and timely delivery.

Presenting on behalf of the National Revenue Authority (NRA), Manager Janet J. Khan highlighted progress in strengthening taxpayer services through the Business Management System (BMS), including the pilot initiative which demonstrated significant potential for improving access to tax services and domestic revenue mobilisation. She noted the importance of continued support to expand the initiative and strengthen engagement with businesses.

Principal Statistician at Statistics Sierra Leone, Sallieu Mansaray, outlined planned activities including the preparation of the National Multidimensional Poverty Report

using data from the National Integrated Household Survey, the review of the SDG Monitoring Framework, trend analysis and collaboration on the 2027 National Human Development Report. He also highlighted the importance of clarity on resource allocations to implementing institutions under the workplan.

Presenting for the Ministry of Finance, Mohamed Simbie Sesay, Senior Economist, outlined the work of the Research and Delivery Division, highlighting priorities around strengthening research capacity, access to data and research software, technical training, professional development and an internship programme for economists and planning officers. He also noted plans to sustain research partnerships, data and journal subscriptions and other capacity-building initiatives into 2027.

Representing the Ministry of Trade, Mr. Moris Tamba Nyuma, Foreign Trade and Regional Integration official, presented progress in areas including AfCFTA implementation, trade facilitation, digital trade, trade in services and the development of bankable opportunities. Discussions also underscored the need to strengthen the policy framework for trade in services and ensure that it receives adequate attention alongside trade in goods.

The review further highlighted progress in the Blue Economy and investment-related activities, including work on ten bankable projects across



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Policy & The People

From Policy to Law: Sierra Leone's Next Step on Climate Change

By Alice A. Kamara Esq.

Climate change can sometimes sound like a distant global conversation. But in Sierra Leone, its effects are much closer to home. Changing rainfall patterns affect farmers and food production. Flooding affects homes and communities. Coastal erosion threatens settlements and livelihoods, while environmental degradation increases the vulnerability of communities to disasters. These are not only environmental problems. They are development problems. Sierra Leone's National Climate Change Policy provides the country's broad policy direction for responding to these challenges. It recognises that climate change cuts across almost every part of national development, including agriculture, energy, transport, water, forestry, health and infrastructure. The goal is not simply to respond when disaster strikes. It also aims to build resilience, help communities and sectors adapt to changing conditions, reduce environmental risks and ensure that climate considerations become part of national development planning. But climate change presents a particular policy challenge: no single institution can address it alone. A problem affecting agriculture may also involve water resources and the environment. Flooding may involve local government, infrastructure, disaster management and land-use planning. Energy decisions can have environmental and economic consequences. This makes coordination particularly important. Sierra Leone has continued to build on its climate policy framework through its National Adaptation Plan, climate strategies and international commitments. The Environmental Protection Agency Act, 2022 also provides responsibilities relating to climate change, environmental protection and coordination. Government is now taking another important step: work is underway towards a dedicated Climate Change Act. This is significant because policy and law perform different roles. A policy establishes Government's direction and priorities. Legislation can provide a stronger legal framework for putting those priorities into effect, including clearer institutional responsibilities, coordination and accountability. The move towards climate legislation should therefore not be seen as replacing the country's existing climate policy. Rather, it can be understood as part of its continued development. The National Climate Change Policy established the direction. Years of implementation have provided experience. The proposed legislation presents an opportunity to strengthen the framework within which climate action takes place. And that matters because climate change is no longer an issue for the future. Its consequences are already being felt in farms, communities, coastlines, infrastructure and livelihoods across the country. The policy set the direction. The next challenge is ensuring that our laws and institutions are strong enough to help deliver it.

'This Day In History'

September 8

Foiled Military Coup (1996): Six members of the armed forces attempted to mount a coup against President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah's civilian government, but the plot was swiftly foiled. In response, roughly 20 military figures were retired.

National Education Sector Plan Launch (2022): President Julius Maada Bio formally unveiled the National Education Sector Plan (2022-2026) at the Freetown International Centre in Aberdeen, centered around the theme "Transforming Education for All".

Facebook

Krio Heritage Celebrations (2020): The Krio Descendants union held global thanksgiving and commemorative events marking the deep historical roots and heritage tied to the nation's early settler history.

The Sierra Leone Telegraph

Diplomatic and Ministerial Appointments: Mid-September and September 8 dates have frequently marked structural shifts in foreign service deployments and cabinet updates, such as major announcements revamping Sierra Leone's Freetown-based diplomatic corps

African Proverbs

"If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

Meaning: Cooperation and community effort lead to greater, more sustainable success than working in isolation.

"Wisdom is like a baobab tree; no one individual can embrace it."

Meaning: True knowledge is vast and complex, meaning no single person holds all the answers and we must learn from one another.

"Do not look where you fell, but where you slipped."

Meaning: Instead of just regretting a failure, focus on identifying the root cause of the mistake so you can avoid repeating it.

"A roaring lion kills no game."

Meaning: Empty boasting, threats, or sitting around talking will not achieve your goals; you must take actual action.

DID YOU KNOW?

You're taller in the morning than at night.

Here's a weird fact about the human body: When you wake up in the morning, you're about one centimeter taller. That's because at night when you're lying down, the spine stretches and decompresses. But throughout the day, the soft cartilage between your bones gets squashed and compressed, explain British physicians (and twin brothers!) Chris and Xand van Tulleken, co-authors of Operation Ouch!:

Andrew Johnson was buried with his head on the Constitution.

The 17th US president died on July 31, 1875, and per his instructions, his body was wrapped in the American flag and a copy of the Constitution placed under his head.

It rains red in some parts of the world.

Red rain, also known as blood rain, occurs when high concentrations of colored dust or particles carried from deserts mix with rain, altering its hue. Experts say red rain happens a few times a year in the UK, and more commonly in countries such as Spain and the south of France, which are closer to the Sahara Desert, reports the BBC. Blood rain has also shown up in countries in Asia and the Middle East.

Ministry Of Finance Strengthens Asset And Inventory Management In MDAs

The Ministry of Finance, with support from the European Union through the Nature Nourishes-State and Resilience Building Contract (SRBC) Project, Implemented by LINPICO, has concluded a three-day training workshop for Stores and Inventory Officers with the Theme: From Records to Accountability: Strengthening Asset and Inventory Management in MDAs. Held from 31st August to 2nd September 2026 at the Bintumani Conference Hall in Aberdeen, Freetown. The training focused on the development of a National Fixed Asset Register and Inventory Master in line with international best practices. The initiative is aimed at strengthening the capacity of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to effectively identify, record, manage and report government assets.

Director of Stores and Inventory Control, Joseph Ngegba, said the training was expected to contribute to the development of a National Fixed Asset Register, which he described as a cornerstone of government's Medium-Term National Development Plan. He noted that the workshop would help build a cadre of skilled officers capable of leading improvements in

inventory control and asset management. He also expressed appreciation to the European Union for its support through the SRBC Project Implemented by LINPICO, noting that the technical assistance provided is crucial to advancing reforms aimed at improving accountability and transparency in the management of public resources. The Non-Key Experts on the SRBC Project, Thomas Williams and Fatorma S. Koroma, described the initiative as a critical component of government's efforts to strengthen public financial management and safeguard state property. He noted that the absence of a unified and reliable asset register has historically created challenges in accountability and fiscal management, including concerns highlighted in Auditor General's reports. He emphasized that the training goes beyond an administrative exercise, as it provides the foundation for establishing a comprehensive database of government assets, preventing misuse of public property and promoting greater transparency and resilience in state asset management. The workshop equipped participating officers with both theoretical and practical knowledge covering the national policy and reform context,



the purpose and minimum data requirements of a Fixed Asset Register, asset recognition, supporting documentation, reporting thresholds, derecognition, and common control weaknesses and audit findings. The knowledge and skills acquired are expected to improve the accuracy of government asset records, strengthen inventory controls, support better fiscal planning and decision-

making, and reduce the risks associated with the loss or misuse of public property. The training therefore marks an important step towards establishing a modern, centralized and sustainable framework for managing government assets in line with proposed IPSAS requirements and international best practices. MoF Communications

SLUPP, MoICE Champion Food Sufficiency Through Photography



The Sierra Leone Union of Professional Photographers (SLUPP), in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Civic Education (MoICE), has celebrated World Photography Day with a three-day programme designed to highlight the growing importance of photography in documenting Sierra Leone's development journey, promoting civic awareness and supporting the national drive towards food sufficiency and sustainability. The celebration, held from 21st to 23rd August 2026 at Hotel 5-10, Kissy, Freetown, was commemorated under the theme "Food Sufficiency and Sustainability Through the Lens", bringing together professional photographers, Government representatives, media practitioners, civil society actors, security personnel and other stakeholders. The programme was organised around the commemoration of World Photography Day, observed globally on 19 August, and SLUPP's Annual General Meeting. It provided a platform for professional photographers to

reflect on their role in documenting national development while strengthening the institutional and professional structures of the Union. The collaboration with MoICE also underscored the Government's recognition of photography and visual communication as increasingly important instruments for communicating national development priorities and connecting citizens with the policies and programmes being implemented across the country. The event was particularly significant against the backdrop of the Government's development agenda, including the Feed Salone initiative, which places food production, agricultural transformation and food security at the centre of Sierra Leone's national development aspirations. Through the theme, SLUPP sought to encourage photographers to move beyond conventional event coverage and deliberately document the people, communities, innovations and agricultural activities that are

contributing to Sierra Leone's food sufficiency and sustainability.

The programme's opening day, 21 August, focused on the arrival and orientation of delegates, registration and familiarisation among members. The programme was attended by Madam Frances Josephine Kafula, Director of Government Information Service at the Ministry of Information and Civic Education, reflecting the Ministry's active engagement in the celebration.

The main programme on 22 August brought together invited authorities and stakeholders for a series of statements and presentations. Following opening prayers and the singing of the Union Solidarity Song, the programme featured remarks from senior representatives of the information and media sector, including Director Kafula.

The President of SLUPP, Tennyson Koroma Yamba, highlighted the contribution of photographers to telling Sierra Leone's story, particularly through documenting governance, development initiatives, everyday life and the country's rich cultural traditions.

He called on Government and private-sector institutions to continue supporting the photography profession through training opportunities, improved access to equipment and greater recognition of the contribution of professional photographers to national development.

The event also featured a presentation by Director Frances Josephine Kafula while entertainment and interaction provided participants with opportunities to exchange experiences and strengthen professional networks.

Speaking on behalf of the Ministry of Information and Civic Education, Director of Government Information Service Frances Josephine Kafula commended SLUPP for its professionalism and partnership with the Ministry.

She emphasised the power of images in communicating information, promoting civic education, raising public awareness and projecting Sierra Leone positively at both national and international levels.

The Ministry's participation was further reflected in the programme for the third day, when the Director of Information was scheduled to lead a presentation on "The Legal Aspect of Trade Union Activities", focusing on membership registration, rights, obligations and expected responsibilities.

The session formed part of broader discussions aimed at strengthening the organisational capacity of SLUPP and improving members' understanding of their rights and responsibilities within a professional trade union structure.

The third day also featured deliberations on

the Union's administrative reports, the role of its National Advisory Council, the confirmation of officers, and extensive discussions on grievances, organisational structures, statutory functions and membership contributions.

A major component of the day was the Conflict Resolution Hour, during which participants examined grievances and possible solutions, reviewed the Union's organisational structures and statutory responsibilities, and discussed membership contributions and related issues.

These deliberations demonstrated that the celebration was not limited to commemorating photography as an art form but also served as an institutional platform for strengthening the professional body representing photographers in Sierra Leone.

Photography and the Feed Salone Agenda The choice of "Food Sufficiency and Sustainability Through the Lens" gives the celebration a direct connection to Sierra Leone's national development priorities.

As Government intensifies efforts to transform agriculture and improve food production, photographers have an important role in capturing the human face of that transformation. From farmers working on agricultural land to women and young people participating in value-chain activities, from modern farming techniques to food processing and market access, photography can provide powerful visual evidence of progress and the challenges that remain.

The camera can therefore become more than an instrument for recording events. It can serve as a development communication tool capable of telling stories that statistics and policy documents alone may not adequately convey.

For the Government's development agenda, such visual documentation can help citizens understand how national policies translate into activities and opportunities at community level. It can also provide a historical record of Sierra Leone's transformation for future generations.

The SLUPP celebration consequently created an important space for professional photographers to consider how their work can contribute to national conversations on food security, environmental sustainability, livelihoods, youth empowerment and economic transformation.

Photography as an Instrument of Civic Education The partnership between SLUPP and MoICE further demonstrates the growing convergence between visual communication and civic education.

In an increasingly digital environment, citizens consume significant amounts of information through photographs, videos, social media platforms and other visual formats.

A well-composed photograph can communicate an issue instantly, attract public attention and

MoPED, UNDP Review Progress, Accelerate Implementation of 2026 Annual Workplan

sectors such as industry, tourism and transport. The projects are being advanced through technical engagements, retreats and steering committee sessions, with the aim of positioning them for investment and resource mobilisation opportunities. The discussions also touched on the importance of gender mainstreaming, effective management of government contracts and concessions, improved databases for tracking public-private partnerships, and stronger financial analysis before the conclusion of major agreements. The Mid-Year Review therefore served not only as an assessment of progress but also as a platform for identifying

practical measures to improve implementation during the remainder of the year. Participants were encouraged to work collectively to remove administrative and procurement constraints, meet delivery timelines and ensure that allocated resources translate into tangible development outcomes. The meeting reaffirmed the commitment of MoPED, UNDP and participating institutions to strengthening coordination, accelerating implementation and ensuring that development resources are strategically utilised to support Sierra Leone's national development priorities. MoPED Communications

Ministry Of Finance Reinforces Commitment To Fiscal Transparency With IPSAS Training For Public Sector Accountants And Auditors



The Ministry of Finance, in partnership with the European Union (EU)-supported State and Resilience Building Contract (SRBC) Project, on Tuesday, 1st September 2026, commenced a three-day training workshop on the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) Accrual System. The training, held at Country Lodge Hotel in Freetown, brought together senior public sector accountants, auditors and other finance

officials to strengthen their knowledge and capacity in transitioning from the traditional cash-based accounting system to accrual-based IPSAS reporting. The EU-SRBC Key Expert Facilitator, Cyprian Kamaray, said the workshop is aimed at equipping senior public sector accountants, auditors and finance officials with the knowledge and practical skills needed to transition from cash-based accounting to the IPSAS Accrual

System. He noted that the adoption of IPSAS goes beyond a technical requirement, describing it as an important pillar of good governance that promotes fiscal transparency, accountability and public trust in the management of state resources. He added that the training would focus on key standards, including Cash Flow Statements and Property, Plant and Equipment, while supporting Sierra Leone's broader Public Financial Management reforms and strengthening the credibility of government financial reporting. Mr. Kamaray further explained that the workshop is a result of strengthened collaboration between the Ministry of Finance and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sierra Leone (ICASL), aimed at building the technical capacity of finance professionals to manage complex accounting reforms. He said the partnership would empower staff with the necessary tools to prepare IPSAS-compliant financial statements, address implementation challenges and improve the credibility of the country's financial reporting to international donors and

oversight institutions. In a PowerPoint presentation, the Assistant Accountant General, Sheila Max Macarthy, presented the progress made so far and the roadmap for the transition to the IPSAS Accrual System. She explained that the roadmap would be presented to the Minister of Finance for consideration and onward submission to Cabinet for approval and implementation. Madam Macarthy also took participants through key areas of IPSAS, including Investment Properties, Segment Reporting, Contingent Liabilities, Inventories, Hyperinflation, Budget Information and Related Party Disclosures. The training provided an opportunity for participants to actively contribute to discussions, share practical experiences and offer salient inputs on the implementation of the IPSAS Accrual System. The engagement forms part of ongoing efforts by the Ministry of Finance to strengthen public financial management, improve the quality and transparency of government accounts, and promote greater accountability in the management of public resources. MoF Communications

Kerefa Kargbo Takes the Helm at Finance, Pledges to Advance Fiscal Reforms

The Ministry of Finance on Thursday formally ushered in a new era of leadership with the official handing over ceremony between outgoing Minister of Finance, Sheku Ahmed Fantamadi Bangura, and incoming Minister, Karefa A. F. Kargbo. The event, held at the Ministry's Conference Hall on George Street, marked the transition following President Julius

Maada Bio's appointment of Kargbo to the Finance portfolio. Opening the ceremony, Principal Deputy Financial Secretary and Acting Financial Secretary, Samuel E. B. Momoh, described the occasion as a significant moment in the Ministry's leadership journey. He commended Bangura for steering the economy through a difficult period and advancing fiscal



SLUPP, MoICE Champion Food Sufficiency Through Photography

stimulate conversation. For civic education, this makes photography a valuable instrument for explaining Government programmes, documenting community participation and promoting responsible citizenship. The Ministry of Information and Civic Education's engagement with professional photographers therefore offers an opportunity to strengthen the quality and credibility of visual information entering the public space. Professional photographers can help ensure that Sierra Leone's development story is documented accurately, responsibly and professionally. Preserving Sierra Leone's National Story Beyond Government programmes, photography remains essential to preserving the country's cultural identity and collective memory. SLUPP members document Sierra Leone's people, traditions, ceremonies, landscapes and everyday experiences. Their photographs constitute an important visual archive of the nation. The profession therefore has significance not only for journalism and media but also for tourism, culture, education, historical research and national branding. The images produced by Sierra Leonean photographers can equally contribute to correcting misconceptions about the country by presenting its people, landscapes, economic activities and development achievements to international audiences. A Call for Greater Investment in the Profession The celebration also highlighted the need for sustained investment in Sierra Leone's photography industry. SLUPP has called for greater support in the areas of professional training, access to modern equipment, institutional recognition and improved welfare for practitioners. Such support, stakeholders believe, would

enable photographers to meet the changing demands of the digital media environment and produce higher-quality visual content capable of competing nationally and internationally. For Government institutions, development partners, private-sector organisations and media houses, greater collaboration with professional photographers could also improve the quality of visual documentation accompanying national programmes. Towards a Stronger Professional Photography Industry The three-day celebration ultimately served two complementary purposes: celebrating photography and strengthening the professional institution representing photographers. The combination of World Photography Day activities with SLUPP's Annual General Meeting enabled members to assess the Union's activities, consider administrative reports, discuss organisational challenges and deliberate on the way forward. The Union also expressed appreciation to MoICE and other partners for supporting the celebration and reaffirmed its commitment to advocating for the welfare of photographers and raising professional standards within the sector. The event has therefore opened a wider conversation about the place of photography in Sierra Leone's development. As the country advances its food-security and development ambitions, the lens of the professional photographer can help ensure that the transformation is not only experienced by communities but also seen, documented, understood and preserved. For Sierra Leone, the message emerging from the celebration is clear: the journey towards food sufficiency and sustainable development deserves not only to be measured-it deserves to be captured.

reforms, while emphasising that government is a continuum. Welcoming the new Minister, Momoh highlighted Kargbo's extensive experience in public finance and expressed confidence in his ability to strengthen the Ministry's work. In his farewell remarks, Bangura reflected on his three year tenure, describing it as an honour to serve. He thanked President Bio for the trust reposed in him and acknowledged the collective efforts of staff, MDAs, and development partners in navigating economic challenges and implementing reforms aimed at restoring macroeconomic stability. He assured his successor of continued support and noted that the Ministry had documented progress since 2023, including the country's economic position and institutional commitments. Taking over the portfolio, Minister Kargbo expressed gratitude for the appointment and commended his predecessor's stewardship. He pledged to sustain the gains

achieved while focusing on strengthening fiscal performance, citing the supplementary budget as part of ongoing efforts to improve outcomes. Kargbo promised an open door policy and close collaboration with MDAs to ensure timely delivery of government targets and reforms. Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Kenyeh Barlay, lauded Bangura's service and welcomed Kargbo, expressing optimism about continued cooperation between the two ministries. Senior Deputy Financial Secretary Mariatu Brown also extended a welcome, while Deputy Minister of Finance II, Isata Marah, delivered closing courtesies. The ceremony concluded with the presentation of a gift of appreciation to Bangura in recognition of his service. Heads and representatives of key agencies under the Ministry, including MoPED, NRA, FIA, and AGD, were present at the event, underscoring the importance of the transition for Sierra Leone's fiscal and economic governance. ©?MoF Communications

Foreign Mission In Focus

RSLAF and Michigan National Guard Conclude State Partnership Programme Engagement with AFL JAG Corps in Monrovia



A joint delegation from the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) Directorate of Legal Services and the Michigan National Guard has concluded a two-day State Partnership Programme (SPP) engagement with the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps of the Armed

Forces of Liberia (AFL). Led by Brig. Gen. MBS Kamara Esq., Assistant Chief of Defence Staff for Legal, the RSLAF delegation arrived in Monrovia on 30 August 2026. It comprised Maj. EK John Esq., Maj. OC Bangura Esq., Capt. YB Kamara Esq. and Cpl A. Kamara. On the first day, the team paid a courtesy call on the AFL Chief of Staff, Brig. Gen. Davidson Forleh, at the Barclay Training Center, where he reaffirmed the AFL's commitment to the SPP. A conference followed at AFL Headquarters, featuring a welcome address by the AFL Deputy Chief of Staff, opening remarks from the Michigan National Guard and RSLAF Legal teams, an overview of the visit from Lt. Col. Prestine Bombo, and a presentation on the AFL justice system by Lt. JG Bladee. Col. Joseph Pallay, Judge Advocate of the AFL JAG Corps, closed the session, which included an interactive question-and-answer segment. The second day opened with a presentation by Col. Hunter of the Michigan National Guard Legal Team at the AFL Headquarters Conference Hall. The delegation subsequently met with Cllr. Tiawan S. Gongloe, Senior Consulting Counsel at Gongloe and Associates Inc. and a former AFL Judge Advocate, who shared perspectives on the AFL military justice system and Liberian jurisprudence, drawing on his experience prosecuting a 1994 coup case as a Colonel. The team also visited Cllr. Juah Lawson, President of the Liberian National Bar Association, who welcomed the delegation and underscored the need for robust institutional policy to guide the AFL's evolving legal framework. The engagement concluded with a visit to the Temple of Justice, where the team observed proceedings at the Civil Law Court. RSLAF Defence Headquarters Legal noted that the visit forms part of ongoing efforts under the SPP to strengthen the AFL JAG Corps and support the establishment of a Court Martial to uphold discipline and the rule of law. Mamawa S. Richards, Information Attaché, Sierra Leone Embassy, Monrovia, Liberia

Sierra Leone Calls for Measurable Action to Protect Children Affected by Armed Conflict

Sierra Leone's Deputy Permanent Representative to the African Union, His Excellency Ambassador Duwai Sellu Lungay, has called for stronger and more measurable action to protect children associated with armed forces and armed groups in Africa. Ambassador Lungay made the call while addressing the 1,368th Meeting of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), held on Wednesday, 2 September 2026, at Julius Nyerere Hall at the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting focused on the theme "Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups in Africa." At the beginning of his address, Ambassador Lungay observed that when a child is recruited into war in Africa, the continent loses not only a child but also part of its future. He further stressed that the cycle of violence could not be considered truly broken when children released from armed groups are left without education, healing, protection and meaningful opportunities. "The issue before the Peace and Security Council is therefore not whether Africa has the necessary policies and commitments," Ambassador Lungay stated. "The challenge is to translate those commitments into measurable protection for children. On behalf of the Republic of Sierra Leone, he welcomed the Council's discussion and the opportunity to contribute to its consideration of the implementation of previous decisions concerning children affected by armed conflict. Ambassador Lungay noted that Sierra Leone understands the issue from direct experience. The country's history, he explained, demonstrates that the consequences of conflict extend far beyond the formal end of hostilities. Children affected by conflict often carry its effects into their communities and into adulthood. However, drawing on Sierra Leone's own experience, he stated that recovery is possible when national

ownership, strong institutions, accountability, community investment and sustained political commitment are brought together. In this regard, he identified three priority areas for consideration by the Council:

- o Strengthening prevention measures.
- o Ensuring child-sensitive release and protection.
- o Making reintegration sustainable.

Ambassador Lungay also encouraged stronger coordination among African Member States, the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Regional Mechanisms (RMs) and the United Nations. He emphasised that enhanced coordination was necessary to ensure coherent political advocacy, effective implementation and reliable follow-up on commitments relating to children affected by armed conflict (CAAC). In conclusion, Ambassador Lungay, on behalf of the Sierra Leone Delegation, proposed three broad recommendations



for the Council's consideration:

1. Prevention and child-sensitive protection.
2. Sustainable reintegration.
3. Financing, accountability, implementation and follow-up.

He called for a sustained shift from political will to purposeful delivery, from commitments to measurable results, and from the release of children to their genuine reintegration into society. "Our children are not merely victims of today's conflicts; they are peacebuilders,

leaders and citizens of tomorrow. Let us ensure that we protect their future today," he said. Ambassador Lungay concluded his address by reaffirming the importance of protecting children affected by armed conflict and investing in their recovery, development and future contribution to peace and stability. Demba Kanji Daramy, Information Attaché, Embassy of Sierra Leone, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Sierra Leone Envoy In Ghana Tours B5 Plus Limited To Explore Industrial Investment Opportunities

In a bid to boost regional industrialization and attract foreign direct investment, Sierra Leone's High Commissioner in Ghana, His Excellency Mohamed Hassan Kaisamba recently joined colleague Heads of Mission on a diplomatic visit to the state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities of B5 Plus Limited in Tema, Ghana. This strategic visit was aimed at exploring viable opportunities for B5 Plus Limited West Africa's largest iron and steel manufacturer to expand its operations into Sierra Leone. The expansion seeks to support national infrastructure development and create sustainable jobs. High Commissioner Kaisamba toured the massive manufacturing plant alongside Mr. Mukesh Thakwani, CEO of B5 Plus Limited, H.E. Surinder Bhagat,

the High Commissioner of India to Ghana, Deputy High Commissioner of the British High Commission, H.E. Chris Halliday and H.E. Hiroshi Yoshimoto, the Ambassador of Japan to Ghana. This joint diplomatic presence underlines the strong international and cross-border partnership driving the initiative. During high-level discussions, the delegation focused on how B5 Plus Limited can leverage Sierra Leone's investor-friendly climate, strategic geographical location, and growing demand for high-quality building materials with a partnership seeking to establish a robust supply chain and manufacturing presence in Freetown, contributing significantly to Sierra Leone's industrial agenda. At the end of the tour, the High Commissioner expressed immense optimism about the future of the

collaboration: "B5 Plus Limited has demonstrated world-class manufacturing excellence under Ghana's industrialization drives. Our mission is to bridge this expertise with Sierra Leone's immense market potential. With the valuable diplomatic backing of India and Japan, we are confident this initiative will foster unprecedented economic growth, technology transfer, and industrial synergy in West Africa." H.E. Kaisamba noted. The delegation of Diplomats also visited the company's warehouse situated in Pram-Pram. The High Commission of Sierra Leone is committed to working with leading companies like B5 Plus Limited to drive sustainable economic transformation and strengthen bilateral trade within the ECOWAS sub-region. Princetta Williams, Information Attaché, SLHC Accra

300 Days of Activism
for Triple Zero

R dae go
clinic **early**
Early action
dae **save** life.

Zero Dae Start Wit Action



Ministry of
Health



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
AND CIVIC EDUCATION



First Lady Fatima Bio's Campaign Delivers Landmark Global Victory

particularly noteworthy because the country did not simply endorse the international campaign; it played a leading role in advancing the resolution alongside Cabo Verde, Costa Rica and Morocco. That leadership reflects the growing visibility of Sierra Leone's advocacy on issues affecting women and girls and demonstrates how a country with limited resources can influence international policy when it builds effective partnerships around a compelling global cause.

At the centre of this advocacy has been First Lady Fatima Maada Bio.

Over the years, the First Lady has consistently placed the protection, education and empowerment of girls at the heart of her public advocacy. Her campaign has sought to draw attention to the consequences of child marriage while promoting an alternative future in which girls remain in school, have access to opportunities and are able to make informed decisions about their lives.

The UN resolution provides an important measure of the impact of that advocacy. The unanimous adoption by all 193 UN Member States gives the campaign a level of international legitimacy and visibility that individual national initiatives cannot achieve on their own. From November 27 each year, the issue will have a dedicated global platform capable of mobilising governments, development partners, civil society organisations, communities and advocates around a common objective.

This is where the real importance of the First Lady's achievement lies.

Effective advocacy is not measured only by speeches, campaigns or public declarations. Its greatest impact comes when advocacy contributes to changes in policy, institutions and international

priorities. The establishment of an International Day creates precisely such an opportunity.

It can help keep child marriage on the political agenda, encourage countries to strengthen legislation and enforcement, stimulate investment in girls' education and health, and promote the exchange of approaches that have worked in different communities. The achievement also demonstrates the value of Sierra Leone's international partnerships. The collaboration with Cabo Verde, Costa Rica and Morocco shows that the campaign was strengthened by building a coalition around a shared concern rather than treating child marriage as an issue belonging to one country or region.

The global context makes the resolution even more significant. Millions of girls continue to enter marriage before

reaching adulthood, with consequences that can affect their education, economic opportunities, health, personal autonomy and prospects for a secure future.

Child marriage is therefore not simply a question of culture or family practice. It is closely connected to poverty, access to education, gender inequality, protection and development. Tackling it requires coordinated action across all these areas.

That reality makes the First Lady's emphasis on education and empowerment particularly important. Protecting girls from early and forced marriage must go hand in hand with creating meaningful alternatives-keeping girls in school, strengthening child-protection systems, supporting families and communities, and ensuring that girls have the opportunity to determine their own futures. The new International Day

can help provide the international momentum for such efforts.

It also presents an important test for Sierra Leone. Having helped champion the resolution, the country will inevitably face expectations to demonstrate continued leadership at home. International advocacy is most powerful when it is matched by sustained domestic action to protect girls, strengthen institutions and address the social and economic factors that make vulnerable children susceptible to early marriage. The achievement marks an important moment in Sierra Leone's international advocacy. It demonstrates that issues championed from within Sierra Leone can reach the highest levels of global decision-making when backed by sustained leadership, strategic partnerships and persistent advocacy.

Sierra Leone's Civic Education Story Shared In Canada

development.

In her opening remarks, Dr. Catherine Liao, Project Manager and Research Associate with JESA, highlighted the value of continued engagement with Sierra Leone, including collaboration with the MoCE in supporting initiatives in the country. As part of JESA's Canadian engagement activities, she also shared the Global Affairs Canada-funded Championing Gender Equality and Inclusive Education in Sierra Leone project with attendees, raising awareness of the project and Canada's support for advancing gender equality and inclusive education in Sierra Leone.

Representing BCCIC, Dr Adetoun Ilumoka, Lead on Policy, Social Movements and Knowledge Exchange, reflected on the strong connection between Sierra Leone's civic education experience and BCCIC's focus on citizen engagement, civil society and social movements.

"Sierra Leone's experience provides an opportunity to learn how civic education can connect citizens, civil society and government, and strengthen meaningful participation in national development."

The conversation also confronted the challenges that have shaped Sierra Leone's civic journey. Today, Sierra

Leone is responding by strengthening national identity, civic responsibility, participation and accountability. Through the National Civic Education Strategy 2024-2030, Civic Days, town halls, school engagements, quizzes, debates and community outreach, civic education is moving from strategy to action and from the classroom into communities.

The journey is far from complete, but the message shared in Canada was clear: Sierra Leone must continue to become the author of its own story, learning from the past, confronting present challenges and empowering a new generation of informed, responsible and active citizens.

VP Juldeh Jalloh Unveils Plans To Strengthen Grassroots Security

stronger security presence in chiefdoms, particularly in communities where access to police services can be difficult because of distance and limited personnel.

With police officers stationed closer to communities, residents could benefit from faster responses to incidents, improved crime prevention and greater police visibility in areas that have historically had limited access to formal security services.

The presence of security personnel at chiefdom level could also contribute significantly to preventing local disputes from escalating. Paramount Chiefs and chiefdom authorities frequently serve as the first point of contact for communities dealing with disputes, land-related

disagreements, family conflicts and other local tensions. A closer security presence can provide an important institutional mechanism for addressing such situations before they develop into more serious security challenges.

The recruitment could therefore have implications beyond conventional policing. By strengthening security at the grassroots, the initiative is expected to support the effective functioning of chiefdom administrations and create a more secure environment for local development activities.

Speaking during the Makeni consultation, Vice President Juldeh Jalloh said the proposed recruitment was informed by recommendations from Paramount Chiefs

who had called for increased security presence at chiefdom level.

He stressed that recruitment and deployment would be undertaken in consultation with chiefdom administrations to ensure that security personnel are assigned according to the specific needs and realities of communities.

The consultative approach is significant because security challenges differ from one chiefdom to another. While some communities may require greater attention to crime prevention, others may face challenges related to local disputes, border issues, public order or the protection of communities and local assets. A properly distributed chiefdom-level police presence could also improve the relationship between communities and security institutions.

Officers who are consistently present within communities are better positioned to understand local dynamics, engage traditional authorities and community leaders, gather information and build public confidence. For local businesses, farmers, traders and other residents, improved security could provide greater confidence to conduct their daily activities. Safer communities can also create a more favourable environment for investment, public service delivery and development projects. The initiative is particularly relevant to Sierra Leone's decentralisation agenda, which seeks to bring governance and public services closer to citizens. Effective decentralisation requires local institutions that have the capacity, personnel and security environment necessary to perform their responsibilities.

As the Vice President noted, effective

decentralisation cannot be achieved without functional institutions and security at the local level.

The proposed recruitment is therefore being positioned as part of a broader effort to strengthen the relationship between communities, chiefdom administrations and the state.

During the Makeni consultation, the National Council of Paramount Chiefs also presented recommendations covering inter-chiefdom boundary disputes, mobility and administrative support, revenue mobilisation, the involvement of Paramount Chiefs in development initiatives and increased security presence.

These recommendations highlight the wider challenges facing chiefdom administration and the need for reforms that address both governance and security.

The Government intends to use the outcomes of regional consultations to inform a two-day national symposium focused on developing an operational framework for decentralisation reforms. Further engagements with communities at district level are expected to follow. If implemented effectively, the proposed deployment of approximately 800 Native Administrative police officers could become an important component of Sierra Leone's grassroots security architecture-bringing law enforcement closer to citizens, strengthening traditional and local governance structures, improving community confidence and helping create the peaceful conditions necessary for sustainable development.

The initiative ultimately reflects a broader principle: security is most effective when it is accessible to the people it is intended to protect.

President Bio Commended For Extending Dignity And Respect To Ernest Koroma On His Return

According to Press Secretary Yusuf Keketoma Sandi, President Bio's approach sends an important message that the interests of Sierra Leone should rise above partisan political considerations.

He noted that at a time when political and social divisions can easily be exploited, gestures of magnanimity and mutual respect are essential to building a more united country.

He underscored that the relationship between political leaders should not be defined solely by political differences, but

also by a shared responsibility to protect the dignity of the nation and promote peaceful coexistence.

"Sierra Leoneans should seize the moment and channel its positive spirit toward national development, progress and shared prosperity," he said.

The call that has always been made by President Julius Maada Bio is for national interest to take precedence over partisan rivalry, with political leaders setting an example of tolerance, respect and reconciliation for the wider society. He is leading by example.

Sierra Leone Names Final Squad for Rwanda ILT20 Continental Cup Debut

Cricket Sierra Leone has announced its final 14-man squad for the country's debut at the ILT20 Africa Continental Cup in Kigali, Rwanda, running from September 8 to September 19, 2026. The tournament will feature five nations: hosts Rwanda, two-time defending champions Uganda, Kenya, Botswana, and debutants Sierra Leone in what promises to be an epic show at the Gahanga Oval. The Leone Stars will open their campaign on Tuesday against Kenya, before facing title holders Uganda on Wednesday.

The competition comes at a key moment for African cricket development. The ILT20 has been supporting emerging talent from associate nations through its player-development programme, with players from Sierra Leone, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Botswana benefiting. In the 2025-26 season, Sierra Leone's own Samuel Conteh was among those given exposure. CSL says the squad selection reflects the team's readiness to compete and represent Sierra Leone on the continental stage for the first time.



THE PATRIOTS OF SIERRA LEONE SQUAD FOR THE
ILT20 AFRICA CONTINENTAL CUP 2026



SQUAD

LANSANA LAMINA (C)

ALUSINE TURAY

SAMUEL CONTEH

ALIYA KAMARA (WK)

ABUBAKARR KAMARA (VC)

RAYMOND COKER

YEGBEH JALLOH (WK)

GEORGE GEORGE SESAY

ERIC MUSA TURAY (WK)

SOLOMON WILLIAMS

MOHAMED TURAY

DAVID HALLOWAY

IBRAHIM KPAKA

BRIMA ANSUMANA

SLFA President Babadi Kamara Elected WAFU A Vice President



Sierra Leone Football Association President Babadi Kamara has been elected Vice President of the West Africa Football Union Zone A at the body's Elective General Assembly in Banjul, The Gambia. The election took place today during the 15th WAFU A Congress, where football leaders from member associations across the sub-region gathered to elect new leadership for the regional body. Kamara's elevation is being hailed as a major boost for Sierra Leone's representation in West African football. It reflects the confidence member nations have in his leadership and his contribution

to the development of the game in the zone. The SLFA boss attended the congress alongside General Secretary Ing. Mohamed Benson Bawoh. Also representing Sierra Leone was Angela Constance Gabbidon, Secretary of the SLFA Women's League Board and a member of the WAFU A Disciplinary Committee. As Vice President, Kamara will work with the new WAFU A executive to drive football development, strengthen regional cooperation, improve competitions, and address key administrative challenges across Zone A.

Former AC Milan Midfielder Rodney Strasser Honored with AWOL USA Legendary Sportsman Award

Sierra Leone's Rodney Strasser has been recognized for a career that spans from Freetown street football to the San Siro. At AWOL America's 10th Annual Achievement Awards on September 5, 2026, the former AC Milan midfielder received the Legendary Sportsman Award for both his achievements on the pitch and his service off it. Strasser first made headlines as a schoolboy hero, scoring the winner for St. Edward's Secondary School against Ahmadiyya at the National Stadium. That talent took him to Italy, where he wore AC Milan's famous red and black and competed at the highest level of European football. He also proudly represented the Leone Stars internationally. Since retiring, Strasser has given back through the Rodney Strasser Foundation, nurturing young Sierra Leonean athletes. He also donated a generator to the hospital where he



was born and has spoken out against racism and supported Ebola relief efforts. From Freetown to Milan and back home, Strasser's impact goes far beyond football.

Credit: Miracle Kargbo