

# WeYone



All Peoples Congress

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# OUR DEMOCRACY IS UNDER ATTACK

## - NSG Notes!!!

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# Addressing Kono dynamics: Crucial for APC's Victory in 2023...

**W**e Yone believes that, "a spade is a spade".

As a party, the issue of Kono as the swing district of elections in Sierra Leone keeps coming into the fore of the party since 2015 to date.

**W**e Yone would refrain from apportioning blame or even calling names for the current unfavorable situation APC finds itself in Kono.

**W**e Yone is au-fait with the political giants in the district and it has come out clearly that Kono is patriarchal community where majority of residents are much more inclined to follow male politicians than female ones.

**W**e Yone would like to cite the last Ward 091 local council bye-election in which the APC candidate performed miserably for obvious reasons.

**W**e Yone attribute this defeat as a result of the fight of egoism and bigotry between and among APC stalwarts in the district, which to all intents and purposes, are not consistent with the ideals of APC.

**W**e Yone would like to repeat that Kono is a patriarchal community with many secret societies whose adherents are not inclined to follow female politicians regardless of assumed bravado.

**W**e Yone is urgently appealing to the hierarchy of the party to do a re-think on Kono issue, ensure strategic thinking takes dominance over sentimental and parochial thinking to ensure notable political giants from Kono are brought into the fold of the party.

This is the desire of the rank and file so as for APC to take back Kono and give victory to the party. The point is, a presidential candidate requires 55% of valid presidential votes to constitutionally win the election on first round.

**W**e Yone calls for unity and common sense approach.

**W**e Yone conclude by stressing that addressing Kono dynamics urgently and dispassionately is crucial for APC's victory in 2023.



# We Yone News

## “OUR DEMOCRACY IS UNDER ATTACK”

### -NSG Affirms!!!

By Pa-Dikali

All Peoples Congress, in a release signed by its National Secretary General, Ambassador Dr. Alhaji Osman Foday Yansaneh, has joined other well-meaning Sierra Leoneans at both home and abroad, local and international organisations, to condemn what the party described as "unconstitutional suspension of the country's Auditor General and her deputy.

The release states, in the affirmation, that the country's hard-won democracy, is under attack.

The release notes that, the APC is baffled by the insistence of the government to go ahead with the flawed procedure by which His Excellency, the President, had suspended Mrs. Lara Taylor- Pearce, the Auditor General and Mr. Tamba Momoh, the Deputy Auditor General.

The APC, according to the release, is baffled "this suspension conveniently comes two weeks before the Audit Report is to be laid in Parliament".

The Party is wary about the setting up of a Tribunal by the Attorney General to investigate them for alleged "professional misconduct".

"The APC brings to the attention of all Sierra Leoneans and the International Community that this unprecedented action to suspend the Auditor General and one of her deputies and then establish a Tribunal, after the fact, to find reasons to justify the action of our Executive is unconstitutional and undermines our nascent democracy that our people so zealously guard and nurture," the release states, adding "as a Party representing the interest of the people, "we condemn and challenge this action with a view to safeguarding our Constitution and the Independence of State Institutions."

The APC cited portions of the Constitution and take note of the various safeguards placed on the Office of the Auditor General, with a view to protecting its independence and mandate so as to ensure accountability in the financial management of the

country's resources, as encapsulated in Section 119(6) of the Constitution, which states in relevant part that "in the exercise of his function under this Constitution or any other law, the Auditor General shall not be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority."

Additionally, pursuant to section 119(9) the Auditor General's tenure in office has the same protection as that of a High Court Judge, the release further notes.

The release adds: "Section 137 (4) of the same Constitution sets forth in detail the process to suspend or remove a judge which is applicable to the Auditor General and states in relevant part that "subject to the provisions of this section, a judge of the Superior Court of Judicature may be removed from office only for inability to perform the functions of his office, whether arising from infirmity of body or mind or for statement misconduct and shall not be so removed save in accordance with the provisions of this section."

The APC believes, since the due process was not followed, the suspension or removal of the Auditor General should be rescinded.

The APC has also notes the attempt by the Attorney General of Sierra Leone with his November 8th 2021 letter, to legitimize a flawed and unconstitutional process.

The APC respectfully maintained, the Attorney General is a mere busybody in this process since the Constitution does not give him any role to play in the suspension or removal of the Auditor General.

"We urge the Attorney General to stay out of the process and urge the Judicial and Legal Service Commission to strictly abide by the mandates of the Sierra Leone Constitution," the release urges, noting "We also urge the Judiciary to act as one of the arms of government as the Constitution anticipates and rejects efforts of the government to bypass the mandates set forth in our laws."

The APC also believes the Government is testing the waters to see just how much more illegalities they can inflict and get away with.



"Our governance structures are being eroded, our rights are being chipped away and our electoral integrity is on the line as is evident from the EU Reports a fortnight ago; this blatant unconstitutional action further illustrates and compounds the problems we face and points to a crisis that is at the heart of our survival as a country and as a people.

The APC also suggested the blatant unconstitutional action affects the economic stability of the country and that, it further erodes investor confidence, which in turn impacts our economic activities and ability to create jobs - the real Bread and Butter issues facing the people at the moment.

"This line of action has no place in our modern democracy, and we therefore call on the President and on Parliament to whom the Auditor General is to present the 2020 Audit Report to ensure that due process, as laid down in the Constitution is adhered to and that our Auditor General and her Deputy are reinstated," the release calls.

"We urge Parliament to insist that the Audit Report 2020 prepared by our respected Auditor General and her team be released forthwith and without being tampered with," the release concludes.

## Dr. Samura Kamara Complements Party's Intervention For Wellington Fire Disaster

By Sheriff Cole

In an effort to complement the interventions of the All Peoples Congress National Secretariat, to succor victims of the Wellington/PMB fire disaster, the 2018 Presidential Candidate of the Party, Dr. Samura Kamara, has donated 200 bags of rice, to the APC National Secretariat.

Delivering the items, Lansana Fadika, one of the coordinators, on behalf of Dr. Samura Kamara and team said, they were happy to complement the effort of the Secretariat, in caring for the survivors of the PMB/Wellington fire disaster.

As a government in waiting, it is our responsibility to support the sitting government, when the need arises, Fadika added, saying they will continue to support the Secretariat, at any crucial moment.

Receiving the donation at the Party Headquarters in Freetown, Ambassador Dr. Alhaji Osman Foday Yansaneh, thanked the donors, while using the opportunity to thank every member of the secretariat who turned in at the Cottage Hospital to donate blood.

He said blood is hugely of essence to revitalize severely burnt survivors.

He said the APC is a caring party and that the party had informed all its members across the world to boost the intervention.

The APC Scribe believes, the disaster is a national concern and that each and every well-meaning Sierra Leonean should come onboard and support those victims and survivors of the disaster.





# Kono Reject Lies: Re-echo 'Hardship', 'Hunger' & 'Acute Blackout'

*By Pa-Dikali*

This is unprecedented!

For the first time, in recent history of Sierra Leone, for a sitting President to be scolded by a partisan crowd, in an open air.

His Excellency President, Julius Maada Bio, would certainly not be a happy man after such sweet/bitter experience in the diamond-rich Kono.

In full glance of such crowd, President Bio was certainly taken aback with the outburst of young people demonstrating in his presence, for the abysmal hardship, hunger and the acute blackout, the people of Kono are facing since 2018, a political commentator told We Yone last evening.

Fragmented APC operatives in Kono have been criticized by many for given a field day to the ruling Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) executives members and government appointees, to rig the recently concluded Ward 091 bye-election, in Bangabaya village, Sandoh chiefdom.

It could be a dismay to the President. The hired crowd, full of young people, could not accommodate deceits of increased electricity, economic and infrastructural gains the SLPP is claiming to have achieved in Kono.

Unlike before, the so-called city, is now swimming in acute blackout.

The imported crowd couldn't mice their words, yelling about the hardship, hunger and acute blackout, Kono is suffering since President Julius Maada Bio assumed the mantle of leadership of the country in 2018.



This development had sent shockwaves to officials of SLPP in Kono, as to whether they would get away after deceiving the President over his popularity in Kono.

Deputy Organizing Secretary of the All Peoples Congress, Karamoh Kabba, on the day of polls updated the public about the situation at Bangabaya, which he revealed, the SLPP changed the peace and quietness.

He further revealed: "The APC and C4C polling agents caught a woman who voted with a voter ID card from another Ward. She was handed over to the

police. We asked for the identification of the NEC officer who aided the process for the woman to vote," he revealed, adding "In the presence of the LUC and his team of police, Laurence Kai Mbayo, deputy minister of sport, trooped in with SLPP thugs, who were all unaccredited. They heaped insult and assault on Ibrahim Sesay, Richard A Koniga and my very self in the presence of the police."

"They commanded the police to take our phones from us on false accusation that we took photos of the woman who had voted illegally. All this happened in the presence of EU and NEW observers," Kabbah said, further saying, "the police literarily used undue power to force us out of the centre with a police escort leaving behind an exposed centre to rigging".

Philip Tehtehma Tondoneh, deputy minister of works was permanently stationed at Yaryah, while Kai Laurence Mbayo was permanently stationed at Bangabaya organizing and executing vote rigging in broad day light, Kabbah noted while saying, he notified the IGP Sovula's over policing of Ward 091 bye-election, pointing out the unholy role of the police, aiding and abetting vote rigging in favour of the SLPP.

He also reported that the NEC Kono District Elections Manager and his team are simply lame in this arrangement with some even facilitating the vote rigging as in Bangabaya.

## *Financial Act 2021....* **APC MPs Pick Holes**

By Sulaiman Alim Bangura

As the amendment of the Finance Act of 2021 goes before parliament, members of parliament of the All Peoples Congress stood tall in bringing forward issues that can benefit the citizens of Sierra Leone.

The Finance Act of Sierra Leone has been an act created to provide for the imposition and alterations of taxes.

It also gives effect to the financial proposal of Government and to provide for other related matter that deals with finance for every year.

On Monday 16th November, 2021, the Finance Act of 2021 was brought in front of parliament in order to make necessary amendment by parliamentarians for the year 2022 for the betterment of its citizenry.

The APC MPs were in full gears as always in order to ensure that necessary things are effected in the amendment of the Act, in the interest of the welfare of every Sierra Leonean.

Leader of the main opposition party - Honorable Chernor Ramadan Maju Bah pinpointed that, since 2006, the Finance Bill has been the most important bills brought to parliament year in - year out.

In his contribution towards the debate of the amendment on the finance Act of 2022, as highlighted, he stated that the creation of a special account or fund outside of the National Disaster Agency is questionable, saying the agency cannot have any control over itself.

He highlighted that, the Wellington fire disaster caught "us all pant down".

Hon. Bah noted the disaster is a lesson learnt for the House of Parliament to press for more funding for the National Disaster Management Authority as the Finance Bill is being put forward once again for amendment.

He added that, the Finance Bill is in front of parliament and that members of parliament should more focus on the area of revenue generation.

He states that, as a representative of the people, he called on the minister, through his office, to cut down the taxes of housing commodities, like cement, as it has been greatly affecting the poor people.

"The fact that the Finance Bill is a special Bill that covers the livelihood of all and sundry, members of parliament should not look into it abruptly. I do not want to part of the creation of any laws that tend to have a side effect on the people," the seasoned MP added.

Honourable Abdul Karbgo of Constituency 079 is known for his dedication to speak out on burning issues that is of public centric.

He reiterated on the reduction of customs and taxes on imported commodities, as it has been one of the key factors for the uncontrollable increment of prices in the market.

He pinpointed that, another opportunity has been given once again to members of the House to set the record straight, as the Finance Bill is in front of them.

Honorable Abdul Karim Kamara (AKK) of 059 stated that, the laws passed by parliament sometimes is among the many reasons the judiciary



system of late has nothing good to write home about.

He advised members of parliament to be mindful in dealing with certain bills, saying whenever a drafted bill is presented to the house, members should ensure that they looked at it well and debated it, in tandem with other laid down laws or acts, in order to prevent any conflict of laws.

As he puts it in his words that "The integrity of the house of parliament, wholeheartedly depends on what Parliamentarians do and say"

Summarizing, Leader of the Opposition in the House of Parliament, Hon. Chernor Maju Bah craved on the indulgence of the minister and the House of Parliament, in its entirety, to look into all the issues pointed out by members in House in a bid to ensure the furtherance of all Sierra Leoneans.





# ALL PEOPLES CONGRESS (APC)

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# PRESS STATEMENT

## THE APC CONTINUES TO CONDEMN THE UNCONSTITUTIONAL SUSPENSION OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL AND HER DEPUTY

The All Peoples Congress (APC) like many other organisations is baffled by the insistence of the government to go ahead with the flawed procedure by which His Excellency, the President, had suspended Mrs. Lara Taylor- Pearce the Auditor General and Mr.

Tamba Momoh, the Deputy Auditor General; and the setting up of a Tribunal by the Attorney General to investigate them for alleged professional misconduct". This suspension conveniently comes two weeks before the Audit Report is to be laid in Parliament.

The APC brings to the attention of all Sierra Leoneans and the International Community that this unprecedented action to suspend the Auditor General and one of her deputies and then establish a Tribunal, after the fact, to find reasons to justify the action of our Executive is unconstitutional and undermines our nascent democracy that our people so zealously guard and nurture.

As a Party representing the interest of our people, we condemn and challenge this action with a view to safeguarding our Constitution and the Independence of State Institutions. We refer to our Constitution and take note of the various safeguards placed on the Office of the Auditor General with a view to protecting its independence and mandate so as to ensure accountability in the financial management of the country's resources. Section 119(6) of the Constitution states in relevant part that "in the exercise of his function under this Constitution or any other law, the Auditor General shall not be subject to the direction or control of any person or authority." Additionally, pursuant to section 119(9) the Auditor General's tenure in office has the same protection as that of a High Court Judge.

Section 137 (4) of the same Constitution sets forth in detail the process to suspend or remove a judge which is applicable to the Auditor General and states in relevant part that "subject to the provisions of this section, a judge of the Superior Court of Judicature may be removed from office only for inability to perform the functions of his office, whether arising from infirmity of body or mind or for statement misconduct and shall not be so removed save in accordance with the provisions of this section."

In the absence of the application of the abovementioned constitutional provisions for the suspension or removal of the Auditor General any suspension is deemed unconstitutional and should be rescinded.

Regrettably, we note the attempt by the Attorney General of Sierra Leone with his November 8th 2021 letter, to legitimize a flawed and unconstitutional process, post facto:

In this regard, respectfully, we note that the Attorney General is a mere busybody in this process since the Constitution does not give him any role to

play in the suspension or removal of the Auditor General. We urge the Attorney General to stay out of the process and urge the Judicial and Legal Service Commission to strictly abide by the mandates of the Sierra Leone Constitution. We also urge the Judiciary to act as one of the arms of government as the Constitution anticipates and rejects efforts of the government to bypass the mandates set forth in our laws.

As a party, we see that the Government is testing the waters to see just how much more illegalities they can inflict and get away with. Our democracy is under attack, our governance structures are being eroded, our rights are being chipped away and our electoral integrity is on the line as is evident from the EU Reports a fortnight ago. This blatant unconstitutional action further illustrates and compounds the problems we face and points to a crisis that is at the heart of our survival as a Country and as a people. This blatant unconstitutional action affects our economic stability as it further erodes investor confidence, which in turn impacts our economic activities and ability to create jobs - the real Bread and Butter issues facing our people at the moment.

This line of action has no place in our modern democracy, and we therefore call on the President and on Parliament to whom the Auditor General is to present the 2020 Audit Report to ensure that due process, as laid down in the Constitution is adhered to and that our Auditor General and her Deputy are reinstated.

We urge Parliament to insist that the Audit Report 2020 prepared by our respected Auditor General and her team be released forthwith and without being tampered with. We are watching, The

People of Sierra Leone are watching and the World is watching.

Long Live Sierra Leone!

Long Live Democracy!

### Long Live Rule of Law

Signed

.....  
National Secretary General

Amb. Dr. Alhaji Osman Foday Yansanel



# Perspective

# WHY MAADA IS UNABLE TO PIERCE PEARCE

## - A Dispassionate Analysis

By Karamoh Kabba

In Sierra Leone, hearts are ablaze and imaginations are running wild over the 'illegal suspension' of the Auditor General of Audit Service Sierra Leone (ASSL), Lara Taylor-Pearce and her immediate under-link, Mr. Tamba Momoh in just weeks leading to the release of the 2020 audit report.

The social media is awash with insinuations that President Maada Bio always wanted to fire Lara and was looking for the right opportunity to act.

Others believe that State House is worried about yet another "hard-hitting" annual audit report from Lara.

But according to a letter from the Office of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice signed by the deputy minister, Umaru Napoleon Koroma and addressed to the Hon. Justice Desmond Babatunde Edwards on 8th November, 2021, Lara is accused of "alleged misconduct or lack of professional performance" in the exercise of her mandate as Auditor General.

In the aftermath, intense constitutional and legal debates have ensued amongst politicians, political pundits, non-state actors, high-profile legal luminaries and the media mostly calling for a review of the president's decision against Lara in this small West African nation with a bitter history of coup d'états and savage internecine conflicts since Independence in 1961.

Lara's unprecedented suspension by President Maada Bio according to many observers has awakened bad memories of unabated breaches of the 1991 Constitution and the attendant constitutional crises and political tensions that are undermining elections, good governance and democracy since Maada Bio rose at the helm of affairs in this country following a controversial presidential election victory in 2018.

The 'Afrobarometer' wrote in favour of Lara that, "As the government's chief external auditor since 2011, she has won praise for helping change Sierra Leone's public-sector accountability landscape..." The statement in part further reads that "Among other honours, she received the 2015 National Integrity Award from the Sierra Leone Anti-Corruption Commission."

Umaru Fofana, the BBC stringer in Sierra Leone describes Lara as "The highly-respected career auditor who has headed the institution for 10 years..." on his Facebook page. "Mrs Taylor-Pearce told me that she had not been told what the remit of the tribunal was or what wrongdoing she and one of her deputies (also suspended) had committed.

She has been consistent in releasing hard-hitting audit reports about the handling of state resources by the former and present governments," Umaru continued.

Lara may have been denied the right by her

accusers to know the reason for her suspension, but the haste to suspend her has spurred a major concern amongst Sierra Leoneans that the president might have breached the constitutional provision to suspend/remove an auditor general.

The argument is that a tribunal should have been setup before the issuance of the suspension letter and that the procedure through the judiciary has been considered to be 'flawed'.

Basita Michael, who is a member of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission (JLSC) before her resignation few days ago, and who also served as a former President of the Sierra Leone's Bar Association has resigned from the JLSC, citing reason of unacceptable manner in which President Bio appointed a Judicial Tribunal to investigate alleged wrongdoing by Auditor General Lara Taylor-Pearce.

In a legal opinion titled; "My Thoughts on the Mrs. Lara Taylor-Pearce Saga" by a well-known politician and renown lawyer of over forty-year experience in the profession, Hon. Charles Francis Margai raised not only a constitutional glitch in the process over the suspension of the Auditor General, but he also alluded that the president may attract an impeachment process for misconduct when Lawyer Margai called the attention of the less legally inclined public to "Section 51 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No.6 of 1991 - titled misconduct by president".

In conclusion, Charles Margai pondered the question of "Are there attendant consequences when a president breaches provisions of the Constitution?" The legal luminary henceforth lured the minds of attentive Sierra Leoneans to Section 51 Act No.6 of 1991 Constitution.

And here is what the foregoing Section of the Constitution states in that regard; "If notice in writing is given to the Speaker signed by not less than one-half of all the Members of Parliament of a motion alleging that the President has committed any violation of the Constitution or any gross misconduct in the performance of the functions of his office and specifying the particulars of the allegations and proposing that a tribunal be appointed under this section to investigate those allegations, the Speaker shall..."

Indeed, concerned civil societies, rights advocates and the media have heaped serious condemnation and criticism on Maada Bio's government and its judiciary for imprudence in their actions that have provoked yet another constitutional crisis and a possible butt of a toxic political atmosphere.

The Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ) has registered its concern "about the issues of transparency an accountability in the use of public funds by government and its agencies". The Institute of Governance Reform (IGR) states that the institute is appalled by "the move given the reputation the Auditor General has built over the years particularly coming just weeks before the release of the annual audit report." 50/50 is a feminist organization that has expressed

suspicion of a foul play against powerful women in governance in a press statement in response to the Lara saga. The Standard Times newspaper republished a letter president Maada Bio wrote in 2015 in praise of Lara Taylor-Pearce for auditing the Ebola funds.

Political parties, either separately and or in a union they called a Consortium of Progressive Political Parties (CoPPP) made up of thirteen out of seventeen registered political parties have been highlighting similar concerns over constitutional breaches by Maada Bio's government in the past to no avail. They have now seized the opportunity to showcase a proof that their concerns, all these years, were valid.

They are now up in arms with the government over the "illegal suspension" of Lara. Hon. Kandeh Yumkella, leader of the National Grand Coalition (NGC) in Parliament tweeted in part that "It is another nail in the coffin of accountability and democracy." This is because Lara, according to international and local opinion leaders and observers, carries an unblemished character and an indefatigable passion for carrying out her mandate in accordance with international best practice as well as her well-known consistency for publishing fearless and without favour annual audit reports.

In all of these, lawyer Francis Gabbidon, former ombudsman and long-standing lawyer sees no problem with the right of the president to hire and fire. Nonetheless, many other prominent lawyers retorted that "The issue is about the blatant violation of the Constitution and the flawed process of suspending/removal of the Auditor General and not about questioning the Executive Power of the president."

Well, Lawyer Garbidon is not the proverbial 'new kid on the block' when it comes to instigating controversies - this was the same lawyer who interjected the infamous 'two sims' (dual citizenship) issue into the political discourse in the run-up to 2018 parliamentary elections that led to the disenfranchisement of many active diaspora politicians.

And the defunct All Political Parties Association (APPA) is observed to be unusually silent on this matter this time around differently from their unguided support for government in the past for all the wrong reasons, one political commentator observed.

And in this fight to defend her integrity, dignity and good name, Lara is indeed living up to the challenges consistent with the great religious doctrine that "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches". Indeed, her name Pearce is a good surname "derives etymologically from the Germanic word to pierce, and was a name commonly given to warrior caste".

Maada Bio has been a good mask man with his quiver full of arrows before, but now confounded by the challenges to pierce Pearce especially in the face of a 'disgrunt' grassroots who are poised to stand with the defender of their economy against corrupt politicians amidst the rising prices of food stuff, and they don't give a damn about the legal intricacies in the discourse.



# We Yone News

## APC MPs Donate to wellington fire victims

*By Sarraan Kabba*

Members of Parliament of the All Peoples Congress in Constituency 114 and Constituency 115 on Friday 19th November 2021 jointly donated relief items to the November 5th 2021 Wellington fire victims and their survivors at Old Wharf.

Honourable Unpha Sorie Koroma of Constituency 114 and Honourable Amadu Bah Esq. of Constituency 115 respectively extended condolences to the bereaved families and asked them to mourn like believers because the fire accident, which they said, snatched the lives of their compatriots was a will of God.

They said that the items are not to compensate for the lives lost, but to cushion the sorrow and grief they are facing at the moment.

They revealed some of the relief items were donations from Sierra Leone Brewery Ltd and that they are calling on other corporate entities within the Wellington Industrial Estate to come to aid of their constituents, as this is a tragic moment in these constituencies affected the entire nation.

Hon. Amadu Bah Esq said since the aftermath of the fire disaster, he and Hon. Unpha have been working together to show solidarity, support and mourn with their constituents.

The APC MPs added that to date, they are still



visiting the homes of the affected and afflicted, pleading to the recipients to demonstrate patience, as they would ensure a fair and equitable distribution of the food supplies.

Speaking to Chief Pa Alimamy Koroma in the Old Wharf community, he said as a



community they are sad about the tragedy they are faced with.

He thanked the Hon. MPs Unpha Sorie Koroma and Amadu Bah for their support and solidarity.

He also thanked the APC executive for their intervention during this sad moment.

Speaking to the beneficiaries of the relief items, Tamba Moses, Chairman for Old Wharf Bike Riders said that the union is badly affected, as most of the victims were bike riders.

He said, "I feel relieved that the APC MPs were the first to sympathize with us".

He said that they appreciated the relief items and that it will cushion the livelihood of the fire victims'/survivors.

# Party News

## Comrade Kasho J. Holland-Cole Hosts APC Western Rural District Women ...Boosting Leadership/Organizing Skills

By Vidal Bultman

Comrade Kasho J. Holland-Cole who is the District Chairman of Western Rural District Council has in his capacity also as 'Political guru' in Western Rural Area hosted APC women at Sherimems Conference Hall, Benguema, Waterloo during a one-day event which ensured participants were trained on leadership skills and organizing prowess, ahead of 2023 elections.

Addressing the participants that encompassed constituency chair ladies of the 8 constituencies in Western Rural Area as well as other executive members, zonal

heads and vibrant APC women activists, comrade Kasho as he is popularly called, commended the participants for attending the one-day summit, stressing as women, the APC Party holds them in high esteem.

"You are the foot soldiers in espousing the ideology and ideals of APC," he stated, adding they are expected to play pivotal role in the politics of the district.

As women, he emphasized, they have full rights and privileges to aspire for elective positions and put women in the map of leadership.

"Therefore, this training is aimed at

capacitating you with skills relating to organizing, campaigning and leadership drive," the dynamic APC stalwart stated.

He assured the women of his commitment to their welfare, because in many homes women are now "bread winners".

Key APC female politicians including chairlady of West East District, Comrade Haja Nancy Sesay, Comrade Isata, dilated on key topics relating to women's empowerment, leadership responsibility and oratory skills.

The one-day training was climaxed with the presentation of certificates of participation to the participants.



# Opinion

## COUNCIL OF CHURCHES MISFIRES!!!

If anyone says that the press release of the Council of Churches is weak and designed to exonerate the Council from any blame for being silent over such a sensitive issue, I'll say to that particular person that he/she doesn't even understand the content of the press release.

The Council of Churches press release is a case of hypocrisy and sycophancy!

The second paragraph of that press release is very misleading and is far apart from the spirit of the Constitution it has purported to support.

The 1991 Constitution reads in Section 137(6): "Where the question of removing a judge of the Superior Court of Judicature (in this case the Auditor General) from office has been referred to a tribunal under subsection (5), the President may suspend the judge from performing the functions of his office, and any such suspension may at any time be revoked by the President, and shall in any case cease to have effect if the tribunal recommends to the President that the Judge shall not be removed from office."

Having read the Constitution, I'll bluntly stand my ground to disagree with the position of the Council of Churches as very misleading because no reasonable person who is not partisan would say that an appointment of a tribunal without first reinstating the Auditor General and her deputy is in line with the Constitution.

**No, it isn't.**

The said question of suspension has to be first referred to the Tribunal before any suspension takes effect, but the reverse is what the Government has done or it's now doing!

This is another abuse of presidential power and the press release of the Council of Churches is shying away from the fact and to tell the truth to the Government and asked the Government to first reverse its suspension before the tribunal set to work.

Basita's resignation has also exposed the ineffectiveness of the JLSC which appointed a tribunal without explaining to the tribunal the alleged accusations it is going to try/address.

**This is unfairness and exhibits a case of ploy.**

The secrecy that has surrounded the alleged accusations and the function(s) of this special tribunal has sparked a lot of suspicions and controversies that are not good for our fragile democracy.

So if the Council of Churches which is expected to be a serious stakeholder in maintaining peace in the country cannot be bold enough to say the truth, then people should understand why such institutions would not be treated with the respect they purport to command at some given time and situation they'll want to be hearken to.

I repeat to those who say that the Council of Churches press release weakly condemns the Government, NO, it didn't at all condemn the Government!

Rather, the press release plays in line with the Government to pacify the anger of the people about the unprecedented suspension, whilst the Government is executing its plan and at the same time silent the critics of this constitutional abuse of power by the President.

The second paragraph didn't condemn government anywhere in that press release.

Instead they are deliberately pacifying people not to be angry and are misleading the public that the government has acted in line with the Constitution.

This is misleading because the Government acted contrary to the Constitution!

This is so because the Constitution states that the suspension must only come when the tribunal is constituted.

The question is 'Was that what happened?' A big NO!

But yet the misplaced press release of the so called Council of Churches wants us to believe that the appointment of the TRIBUNAL is per the dictates of the Constitution.

And even when earlier in the day, Lawyer Basita Michael's resignation has already exposed the wrongful nature of the said TRIBUNAL, the said press release ignored the clarion call of early warning signs of abuse in the setting up of the said tribunal!

The Judicial Legal Service Commission (JLSC) is violating its own very rules by failing to state the offenses which the Auditor General and her deputy Mr Tamba Momoh had committed.

The failure to show the offenses committed by the JLSC explains the situation of a Trial by Arm bush.

WAM!

## MEMORIAM

The family of Late

### Mr. Abdul Karim Sesay

who died on 24th September 2021 aged 60 years wish to invite members, relatives, friends and sympathisers to his fortieth day ceremony and reading of the Holy Quran on Sunday 28th November 2021 at Songo Colony.

Late Abdul Karim Sesay was survived by his

MOTHER: Haja Adama Sesay

STEPMOTHER: M a d a m A d a m a Kuyateh in Bo

WIFE: Mrs. Kadiatu Sesay of the United States of America

MOTHER-IN-LAW: Mamie Marie Bangura of Tengbe Town

**BROTHERS:**

Mr. Alpha Sesay, Abass Sesay, Alpha K. Sesay, Alie T. Sesay, Abu Sesay, Sampha Sesay, and Mohamed Sesay (Small) all in Freetown, Ibrahim Sesay, Frank P. Sesay, Gibril Sesay, Mohamed Sesay and Bockarie Alie all in United States of America.

**SISTERS:**

Mrs. Zainab Sesay, Mrs. Yeabu Bamie, Marie Sesay, Isatu Sesay Mrs. Marie Kabia in Freetown Mrs. Salamatu Vandi and Balu Sesay in Bo, Aminata Sesay, Mrs. Kadiatu Nabie, Mrs. Isatu Bah, Mrs. Zainab Alak, Mrs. Zainab Rose (Nee Deen) all in the USA.

**IN-LAWS:**

Mrs. Zainab Sesay (small), Mrs. Finda Sesay, Fatmata Kuyateh, Joseph Y. Kuyateh, Mrs.



Memuna Sesay and Abibatu Kamara in Freetown; Mr. Mohamed Bah, Mohamed Bah, Mohamed Kuyateh, Ina Rose and Mr. Alak in United States of America; Sallay Bangura in USA, Mr. Lamin Bangura and Mr. Mohamed Bangura in Freetown as well as Mamie Regina Blango in Makeni.

**OTHER RELATIVES INCLUDE:** The Fofanah, Kargbo, Sesay, Davies, Cole, Kanu, Alak and Bah families of Songo; the Kuyateh family of Rogbangba

**CLOSE FRIENDS:** Abdul Dura of Binkolo, Musa, Shorway Fackie, Family of Baoma Station and the entire Songo community.

Please remember the date for the fortieth day ceremony will be on Sunday 28th November, 2021 at Songo Colony at 2:00pm.

We regret any omission of names as you are all considered important



# "Booing of President Bio: Premonition of Defeat in 2023!"

## *-Political Commentator Maintains*

By Momoh K. Kanu

As a trail of sustained signs of embarrassment and rejection continues to dogged the lame-duck President of Sierra Leone in the person of Faltastian Bragadier Julius Maada Bio, a political commentator who spoke to We Yone hours after last week's video clip of President Bio been booed in Kono went viral on social media and even in traditional news outlets, noted, "the booing of President Bio is a premonition or sign of defeat in 2023 election".

According to reports, President Bio was addressing a gathering of educationists, Kono stalwarts and students in Koidu City, Kono district on a so-called 'Kono university' when he was spontaneously booed at by people who by all indications are frustrated and dismayed over the failures of the Bio SLPP-led government almost four years at the saddle of national

governance.

Shouts of "we are hungry!!!, "we want light" were heard audibly, thus placing the President in a state of discomfiture and embarrassment.

According to the Political Commentator, the outburst could be likened to the 'busting of suppressed anger and pain' in the hearts of Kono residents.

"It is no hidden secret that it is this Bio regime that in less than three months in office in 2018 that carted away Kono district electric plant to Bo; this same Bio government that failed to build on the gains made by erstwhile APC government in sectors of road infrastructures, health, education, energy and national cohesion; this same Bio government that created a climate of fear, intimidation and violence as evidenced in the stolen victory in Ward

091 local council bye-election; this same Bio government that is faking Kono residents of their so-called preparedness to build Kono University when the SLPP has just one year left to exit power as indicated in popular opinions of citizens," the Political Commentator noted.

The Commentator pointed out to We Yone downfall of failed leaders always precipitated by public booing and snobbish disregard by the governed.

"This happened to former President Jacob Zuma of South Africa, Donald Trump in USA as well as Yayah Jammeh in Gambia before they were booted out of power, democratically," the political Commentator explained, and concluded by asserting that the failures of the Bio regime are sources of annoyance to Sierra Leoneans and by booing the President now in public gatherings, they have demonstrated their determination to vote Bio out of power in 2023 Presidential election.

# Thanks and Appreciation For Sympathy

The Bangura family of the  
**Late Kandeh Sorie Bangura  
(Chief B.S Bangura)**

wishes to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all who supported us in diverse ways after the death of our father.

Therefore, in no particular order, we would like to thank the following people: Dr Samura Kamara, Hon. Chenor Ramadan Maju Bah, Ambassador Osman Foday Yansaneh, Hon. Bai Mamoud Bangura and the entire APC National Youth League, the Mayor Of Freetown Yvonne Aki Sawyer, Hon. Paolo Conteh, Mohamed Gento Kamara, Madam Diana Finda Konomanyi, Suliaman Kabba Koroma Esq, Africanus Sorie Sesay Esq, Brima Koroma Esq, Ibrahim Brisco Kamara Esq, Dr

Sam Sesay, PC Kandeh Korgba 3rd of Tonko Limba Chiefdom, Bishop Koroma Chairman of Malimba, Limba Pentecostal Church, Limba Central Mosque, Malimba Organisation, Ambassador Dauda Kamara, Dr Abu Pratt (Focus100) Chairman Med Kay, Mohamed Korgba Bangura of Moliba Group, Chairman Mustapha Hamid Koroma and the entire APC UK Youth League, Leader Joseph Umaru Deen Koroma, APC USA, Chief Mathew Young and members of the Council Of Tribal Heads Western Area, Ambassador Jnr Navo and the team at AYYV, Mrs Asmaa James and the team at 98.1, Tag-Men APC media team, Dauda Blaque Media team, OWL Newspapers, Sierra Gems Media UK, and to all who supported and mourn with us both home and abroad...We are grateful to all of you. May The Soul of this Great Man Rest Peacefully and Allah Grant him Jaanahtul Firdaus.





By Septimus A.M. Saffa

# Bio's 'Spider Web of Reversals'

Practitioners of horoscope would tell you that number 3 is ill-luck. Moreover, the Spider as a hungry insect is depicted in mythology as having advised three cooks to tie a cord around it and once they finish preparing food, they should draw the cord for it to feast on their respective meals.

But ill-luck befell spider as the three cooks finished preparing food at the same time.

Spider was caught between the devil and the deep blue sea as the three cooks drew their cords simultaneously.

Bang! Spider was so tightened that until doom's day, spider is one of the insects with a thin, if not very thin body.

Coming to the situation in Sierra Leone, Eagle's eye would like to first and foremost quote few lines from free verse Poet, Gwendolyn Brooks' Poem: "Horses Graze"

It reads: "Cows graze

Horses graze.

They

Eat

Eat

Eat"

As can be deduced from the above, eat is stressed thrice to show the level of gluttony and brute satisfaction of these animals.

The animal instincts in man should be suppressed or else it may lead to disastrous consequences in one's political agenda.

As Eagle's eye highlighted in the introductory paragraph of this article, 3 is an ill-luck number.

Readers would now recall that President Bio in the last forth night has made three errors in the art of governance which continue to box him into a tight political corner in which his spinners will not be able to extricate him from.

Error number one: President Bio unconstitutionally suspended the reputable Auditor-General of Audit Service Sierra Leone, Mrs. Lara Taylor-Pearce from office and one of her deputies, Tamba Momoh.

The unconstitutionality of this deliberate act of President Bio has been succinctly put by Lawyer Charles Francis Margai in a Legal opinion titled: "My thought on the Mrs. Lara Taylor-Pearce saga."

A paragraph in the piece reads: "The President's suspension of the

Auditor-General and her deputy should have sufficed and not prefixed a referral of their removal from office to a tribunal.

(see section 137 (6) of Act No. 6 of 1991)."

Eagle's eye views this unconstitutionality been shamefacedly managed now by the Bio regime as reports in "Awareness Times Newspaper" dated Thursday November, 18th 2021 read, "Initial reports that the President had sent Mrs. Taylor-Pearce on suspension order his hand later proved to be untrue.

However, now that the tribunal has been set up, the President is expected to have a letter written directly to Mrs. Lara Taylor-Pearce ordering her to go face the tribunal and suspending her from office pending the outcome of the tribunal."

Indeed it is like Bio putting the cat before the horse!

Coming to error number two: Bio's attraction of boos during a public function in Kono.

Eagle's eye considers this scenario as clear indication of premonitions of failure and defeat of Bio in 2023 presidential election.

Error number three: SLPP/Bio's stolen victory in Ward 091 Bye-election in Kono as well as presentation of a very uninspiring 2022 budget in the wells of parliament.

This nasty behavior by a SLPP Party Agent who has the audacity and arrant arrogance to destroy ballot papers in a bid to give undue victory to SLPP and indirectly give false sense of popularity to Bio's failed policies and activities is an anathema to Sierra Leone's democracy.

Eagle's eye is even annoyed that this complicit behavior by NEC just weeks after EU took swipes at NEC's credibility leaves any sane Sierra Leonean with raised eyebrows and trepidation of what will happen in 2023 watershed elections if NEC, SLP and the Judiciary are not called to order.

And for the budget speech, the least said about it the better.

The point is, the diatribes and platitudes in the budget disqualify if as very uninspiring and a major dis-connect to Sierra Leone's developmental trajectory.

In this light, President Bio's 'spider web of reversals' is alarmingly, blatantly nauseating and forebodes ill-will for citizens as the unlucky number 3!



# International Perspective

## At least 15 dead, 100 missing from flash floods in India's Andhra Pradesh state

NEW DELHI, Nov. 20 (Xinhua) -- At least 15 people died and over 100 others went missing in India's southern state of Andhra Pradesh due to flash floods following incessant rainfall, local media reported on Saturday.

The flash floods reportedly ravaged four districts in the state, namely Chittoor, Kadapa, Kurnool and Anantapur, throwing life out of gear. Around seven teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have been deployed in the floods-affected areas. Search and Rescue operations are on to find the missing persons, according to the media reports. Rail and road traffic in many areas in the state have been adversely affected due to the floods.

## 2.3 mln Somalis severely affected by serious water, food, pasture shortages: UN

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 19 (Xinhua) -- Some 2.3 million people in Somalia, or 18 percent of the population, are severely affected by serious water, food and pasture shortages, a UN spokesperson warned on Friday.

"From Somalia, the federal government and the humanitarian community today jointly said that they are alarmed at the rapidly worsening drought in the country," Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, told reporters at the daily press briefing. "The risk of waterborne disease is on the rise due to the lack of access to safe and potable water," he said. "Somalia is on the frontline of climate change and has experienced more than 30 climate-related hazards since 1990, including 12 droughts and 19 floods," said the spokesperson. Nearly 100,000 people have abandoned their homes, especially in central and southern areas, in search of food, water and pasture for their livestock. Over 70 percent of all Somalis live below the poverty line. Across the country, the number of people who need assistance and protection is forecast to rise by 30 percent, from 5.9 million to about 7.7 million in 2022.

UN deputy special representative of the secretary-general in the country, Adam Abdelmoula, said that "a severe storm is brewing in Somalia." "Those affected have already endured decades of conflict, climatic shocks and disease outbreaks," said Abdelmoula, who also acts as resident and humanitarian coordinator. Local communities, the authorities and the United Nations are ramping up response to address these needs. But critical response sectors like water, sanitation and hygiene are only 20 percent funded. With one month remaining in the year, the 2021 Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan is only 66 percent funded. In response, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund is allocating 8 million U.S. dollars and the Somalia Humanitarian Fund is making a reserve allocation of 6 million dollars.

## UNICEF lauds release of seven children by armed groups in South Sudan

JUBA, Nov. 19 (Xinhua) -- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on Friday welcomed the release of seven children by armed groups in South Sudan. UNICEF Representative in South Sudan Hamida Lasseko said in a statement issued in Juba, capital of South Sudan, that the boys ranging from 13 to 17 years of age were released in Lakes State Tuesday. "This is an opportunity for everyone across the country to work together to ensure that all children who are in the barracks are released," she added. The recruitment and use of children are prohibited by the domestic legislation and international treaties that the country has signed, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols. The release of the children, which was supported by UNICEF, UN mission and the government, comes a few months after South Sudan extended the implementation period for the Comprehensive Action Plan to end all six grave violations against children up to Aug. 7, 2022, which is a positive indicator of its determination to fulfill its commitment to protecting all children from the effects of armed conflict.

The Comprehensive Action Plan was signed in February 2020 and is the most comprehensive plan signed globally since the creation within the UN of the Children and Armed Conflict mandate. To date, two national and 11 state-level action plan implementation committees have been established with the support of UNICEF and UNMISS. Meanwhile, UNICEF said child protection partners have

begun case management processes to ensure that all seven children are reunified with their families in the shortest time possible so that other components of social reintegration can be conducted while the children are settled at home. The UN agency added that it's mobilizing resources to provide livelihood and economic reintegration for these seven children in the coming months.

## Tanzania's Zanzibar president launches special police unit for protection of tourists

DARESSALAAM, Nov. 19 (Xinhua) -- Tanzania's Zanzibar President Hussein Ali Mwinyi on Friday launched a special police unit for protecting tourists visiting the Islands.

Eugene Emmanuel, the assistant commissioner of police, said the newly-launched special police unit comprised of 150 officers. Speaking after the launch of the police unit, President Mwinyi said the new special police unit was intended to guarantee protection and security of visitors in the Zanzibar archipelago. "Police officials assigned to the new unit should work professionally and earn trust from the visitors and make Zanzibar a peaceful destination," said Mwinyi, stressing the government is determined to ensure tourists who visit Zanzibar are secure and serve as goodwill ambassadors of the Islands' tourist attractions.

While saying some countries have already lost tourists due to security uncertainties in addition to other factors, including political unrest, civil wars and outbreak of epidemics, Mwinyi urged Zanzibaris to participate in protecting visitors, warning that criminal acts and deterioration of security were among key factors behind declining tourism sector. Zanzibar is Tanzania's semi-autonomous archipelago in the Indian Ocean. Tourism is Zanzibar's largest economic sector and essential for local socioeconomic stability.

## 302 illegal migrants rescued off Libyan coast: UN refugee agency

TRIPOLI, Nov. 19 (Xinhua) -- A total of 302 illegal migrants have been rescued at sea and returned to Libya, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said on Friday.

The UN agency tweeted, "302 persons were intercepted/rescued at sea last night in three operations and were disembarked in Tripoli and in Zawiya." Among them were 50 women and 22 children, it said, adding the UNHCR and the International Red Cross have provided medical aid and relief items to all survivors. Libya has been suffering insecurity and chaos since the fall of its late leader Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, making the North African country a preferred point of departure for illegal migrants who want to cross the Mediterranean Sea to European shores. Rescued migrants end up inside overcrowded reception centers across Libya, despite repeated international calls to close those centers.

## Colombia confirms capture of 90 alleged members of Gulf Clan

BOGOTA, Nov. 19 (Xinhua) -- Colombian President Ivan Duque on Friday announced authorities captured 90 suspected members of the Clan del Golfo (Gulf Clan) criminal organization in a nationwide dragnet.

"More than 300 uniformed members of the criminal investigation service carried out the mega operation 'Demolisher' in seven departments of the country," dealing a heavy blow to the group, Duque said via Twitter. "In simultaneous operations led by our #Public Force ... 90 alleged members of subgroups of the 'Clan del Golfo' were captured," added Duque. The operations were carried out in the departments of Antioquia, Atlantico, Cordoba, Bolivar, Choco, Cesar and Magdalena. On Oct. 23, Colombian authorities captured the top leader of the Gulf Clan, Dairo Antonio Usuga, alias "Otoniel," for whom they offered 795,000 U.S. dollars for his capture. His arrest marked the most important blow to drug trafficking this century, according to Duque.





# 'Nightmare after nightmare' - De Gea says Man Utd players need to take blame for 'embarrassing' effort

The Red Devils suffered a big defeat to Claudio Ranieri's team, leaving them 12 points behind Premier League leaders Chelsea

David de Gea has labelled Manchester United's performance against Watford as "embarrassing" and called on the players to take the blame for the 4-1 defeat they suffered at Vicarage Road.

Watford had a two-goal lead at half-time through goals from Joshua King and Ismaila Sarr, despite the latter having a penalty saved by De Gea just 11 minutes into the match.

Although Donny van de Beek pulled one back for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men, Harry Maguire was sent off with a second yellow card before Joao Pedro and Emmanuel Dennis scored late on to make it four for the hosts.

What has been said?

De Gea apologised to the club's fans after the game and says the players are responsible for the "nightmare" result.

The goalkeeper said to Sky Sports: "There's not much to say - it was embarrassing to see Man United play like we did today.

"It's not acceptable - the way we were playing and doing things. It's easy to blame the manager or the staff but sometimes it's the players. We need to show much more than we are doing.

"Embarrassing first half - we could've conceded four goals in 45 minutes. It was hard to watch the team playing today - it was nightmare after nightmare. It's not acceptable.

"We are trying to give our best and fight for the team but for sure something is very wrong. You can see in the games - it's very low level, very poor. Sorry to the fans, once again.

"I've been in difficult moments and always believe in myself but there are difficult moments we have to be strong in mind and body. We are paid to play for United and to do better than that.

"This is not Manchester United or the way we ought to play - it's difficult to say more than that."

"It's been very bad for a long time - a club like Man United we have to be fighting for trophies and fighting for big things and to be honest we are far from that. Let's see - we have to keep working hard and stick together. We always say the same things but it's the truth - we have to look at ourselves and see where we can improve."

What does the defeat mean for Man Utd?

The Red Devils' latest loss has resulted in fans calling for coach Solskjaer to be sacked by the club.

The defeat is the biggest United have suffered in the English top-flight against a promoted side in 23 years, according to Opta. In September 1989, they



went down 5-1 against Manchester City at Maine Road.

United have taken just four points from their last seven matches in the Premier League and trail leaders Chelsea by 12 points.

Solskjaer's team are up against the Blues at Stamford Bridge next Sunday after their Champions League meeting with Villarreal in midweek.

## Klopp explains row with Arteta during Liverpool win against Arsenal

The managers got into a heated argument on the side of the pitch after a challenge between Sadio Mane and Takehiro Tomiyasu

Jurgen Klopp admits that he deserved a yellow card for his part in the touchline argument with Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta on Saturday.

The two coaches were cautioned in the first half of Liverpool's 4-0 win over the Gunners after a heated discussion erupted beside the pitch.

The incident occurred after Sadio Mane and Takehiro Tomiyasu challenged for a header, with the Arsenal manager calling for the Liverpool star to be booked.

Klopp reacted to the complaints from the Arsenal coaching staff and said he is tired of coaches going after Mane.

"It wasn't the plan - the situation was that Sadio [Mane] goes for a clean heading challenge, no one makes a foul and they get up and for me it's a bit too obvious that there was nothing," he said to BBC Match of the Day.

"He's just a physical player - you can't do that, it happens too often and it's not right. When they rise

up from the bench it's difficult to not get up and say something."

He added: "It was about the situation that it was no foul from Sadio [Mane] but the Arsenal bench went up like it was a red card. I asked what they want in that situation.

"We had to take Sadio off against Atletico [Madrid in the Champions League] because they wanted him to get a yellow card. The referee did really well in that situation - I deserved a yellow card. It wasn't not OK and that is what I said. It just happened in the moment.

"If it was a harsh challenge we are all like this, but it was nothing, he didn't even touch him, it was just two players going up in the air. And [Arteta's reaction] was not okay and that is what I said."

What has Arteta said?

The atmosphere at Anfield intensified after the incident and the game soon sparked into life, with Mane going on to open the scoring before half-time.