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Executive Director of the Parliamentary Network Africa (PNAfrica), Sammy Obeng (R)

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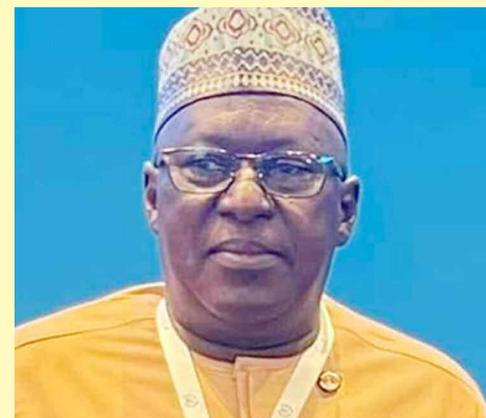
# AFRICA AND EUROPE MUST COCREATE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

## Based on Mutual Respect, Bold Leadership and Vision - *Sammy Obeng*



**PAP holds Youth Dialogue  
on Ending Malnutrition  
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**ECOWAS  
Parliament  
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Rt Hon Speaker of ECOWAS Parliament,  
Dr. Sidie Mohamed Tunis

## Legal and Human Rights

# CSOs Call on United States to Back War Crimes Court in Liberia

By Human Rights Watch

The Biden Administration should send an unequivocal, high-level message to Liberian President George Weah during the US-Africa Leaders' Summit that a war crimes court in Liberia is important to bring justice for civil wars-era crimes and should not be delayed any further, 10 Liberian and international civil society groups said in a report released today. The summit will take place in Washington, DC from December 13 to 15, 2022.

Widespread and systematic violations of international human rights and humanitarian law characterized Liberia's two brutal armed conflicts between 1989 and 2003. The only steps toward criminal accountability have been a small number of cases prosecuted abroad.

"The US government is uniquely placed to back Liberian victims in their quest for accountability for brutal atrocities committed during the civil wars as one of – if not the most important – international partners to Liberia," said Adama Dempster of the Civil Society Human Rights Advocacy Platform of Liberia. "The US government should seize the US-Africa Leaders' Summit to encourage President Weah to commit to establish a war crimes court."

Until recently, the United States government executive branch was silent on criminal accountability for civil wars-era crimes in Liberia, although the House of Representatives adopted a resolution in 2018 in support of criminal justice.

Previous calls by US officials for justice elsewhere in Africa and US assistance provided to accountability initiatives on the continent, such as in Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Sierra Leone and Central African Republic, highlight that the US government has tools at its disposal to foster justice for victims of atrocity crimes that should be utilized in Liberia, the groups said.

US Embassy personnel in Liberia have repeatedly told representatives of nongovernmental groups that it seemed unclear that the call for a war crimes court had wide support domestically because Liberians sometimes focused more on securing their basic needs. The groups said that this position undermines Liberi-

ans' aspirations for justice and years of demands by various segments of Liberian society for prosecutions of serious crimes that continue to haunt the region.

Likewise, the US reaction perpetuates a false assumption that a focus on daily needs negates strong support for justice, the groups said. This can lead to perceptions that Liberians are being patronized and risks undermining trust in the US government by average Liberians, including in the diaspora.

During a visit to Liberia in October, the US war crimes ambassador, Beth Van Schaack, began to convey US interest in accountability for civil wars-era crimes in Liberia and the need for greater clarity on what has impeded progress, which the groups said was helpful.

At various times, President Weah has said that those responsible for civil wars-era crimes should face justice, but in recent years, he has gone silent or been dismissive about establishing a court. Prince Johnson, a former warlord implicated in civil wars-era crimes in Liberia, who is now a senator and is subject to US Treasury Department sanctions due to his alleged role in corruption in Liberia, has led much of the opposition to the creation of a court.

Notorious figures implicated in civil wars-era crimes who have lived in the US but have returned to Liberia face no imminent threat of being held accountable, the groups said. George Boley, a former warlord who was deported from the US due

to his alleged role in recruiting child soldiers in Liberia, now serves in Liberia's House of Representatives. Moses Thomas fled to Liberia while being sued in the US for his role in one of the single worst incidents during Liberia's wars, the 1990 Lutheran Church massacre, during which more than 600 people were estimated killed. The court held him responsible and ordered him to pay survivors US\$84 million in damages, which he has yet to do.

President Weah should request international and regional expertise to determine the best legal and structural requirements for a war crimes court that could operate fairly and effectively in Liberia, the groups said. Such efforts can build off existing proposals for a court, including one made by Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2009 that would be composed of international and Liberian judges, prosecutors and other staff and another made by Liberia's National Bar Association.

"While some perpetrators have been prosecuted outside of Liberia, the government of Liberia is under international treaty obligation to prosecute those who committed gross human rights violations," said Hassan Bility of the Global Justice and Research Project. "We call on the Liberian Government to speed up implementation of the recommendations of the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission so that generations unborn will be able to say that our forefathers stood where duty required them to stand."



Supporters of George Weah attend a meeting during their party's presidential campaign rally at Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Monrovia, Liberia December 23, 2017. © 2017 Reuters



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# Diplomatic And Bilateral Relations

## Africa and Europe must Cocreate a Sustainable Future Based on Mutual Respect, Bold Leadership and Vision - Sammy Obeng



By Clement Akoloh

The Executive Director of the Parliamentary Network Africa (PNAfrica), Sammy Obeng, has underscored the need for the new Africa-Europe relationship to be anchored on a bold and visionary leadership that is sincere in its outlook; and committed to cocreating common realities for building a sustainable future.

He made the observation at the Second "Our Future: Africa-Europe Dialogues" series Organized by the Institut Français du Cameroun in Yaoundé, from the 1st to 3rd December 2022, under the theme: "Get Involved!"

This is a sequel to a series of symposiums organized by the Institut français, and the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs in collaboration

with African partners, to commemorate the New Africa-France Summit held in Montpellier last year. It aims to continue the dialogue opened at the Summit, and to lay the foundation for a new relationship between Africa, France and Europe.

The first symposium was held in Johannesburg, from the 7th to the 8th October 2022, with a focus on the "Paths of Democracy" (Les chemins de la démocratie).

Making his presentation at the second symposium in Yaoundé, Mr. Sammy Obeng observed that the exigencies of the times of a global pandemic which has wreaked havoc on the global financial system and succeeded in eroding some of developmental gains made by developing economies in Africa as well as even some developed countries in Europe; and the considerable decline in democracy across the globe; demands that things are done in a different way to achieve the needed results.



"To my mind, to be able to build this sustainable world that we are looking at, the leadership must be visionary. There must be a vision that we are pursuing and this vision must not be any ordinary vision because the world we find ourselves in now requires bold vision. The vision must be bold; the vision must be one that is sincere.

"When we meet like this and we are having a conversation, we have a bold vision and having everybody committed. But it must also be a conversation about how we can be sincere around the subject matter; speak to it from the heart; ensure that we are committing to it no matter what; and willing to go the full length in ensuring that whatever get discussed are taken through and followed through because leadership does not touch and go: Leadership touches; pursues; and makes sure that things get to its conclusions as it is actually required."

According to him, it is when leadership from both sides of the divide see each other as coequals and recognize that each party comes to the table with its own strengths and weaknesses and with something unique to offer in building the sustainable future required, that this important relationship will yield the desired results.

"The Commitment process can only happen if the parties that are brought around the table, are considered as coequals having a genuine conversation about what needs to be done. Commitment is actually achieved when people feel they were brought to the table right from the inception of the conversation; their views were heard; their views were factored into the conversation; and their views played a significant role in the roadmap which has been set going forward," he said.

The "Get involved!" forum, coordinated by the Council for the Follow-up of the Recommendations of the New Africa-France Summit (CSRN), with the Institut français du Cameroun and the Institut français de Paris, brought together civil society stakeholders, intellectuals, artists, public and private decision-makers and personalities from all walks of life from Cameroon, France and other African and European countries from 1 to 3 December to debate the major challenges of tomorrow, both in Europe and Africa, with a view to building a more sustainable world together.

The issues discussed include questions of memory and heritage to issues related to the preservation of the environment and biodiversity, to civic engagement and mobility or the development of the circular econ-



**"Our Future - Africa-Europe Dialogues" is a series of nine forums held over three years, acting in response to Achille Mbembe's report entitled "The New Africa-France Relations: Facing Tomorrow's Challenges Together" and the hopes expressed by participants in the New Africa-France Summit, held on 8 October 2021 in Montpellier.**

omy, the forum allows for a comparison of points of view and the initiation of concrete actions to renew Africa-Europe relations.

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Its three main objectives are to intensify dialogue between African and European civil societies in order to devise solutions to the many common challenges, to create the conditions for free, transparent and peaceful exchanges between stakeholders from both continents and (iii) to work on the co-development of new tools for cooperation. The series is based on co-construction, at all stages from design to follow-up and evaluation of the forum.

## General News

# Penplusbytes Hosts Maiden Africa Cybersecurity Summit for Non-profits

## News Desk

**T**he role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in any developing country and society cannot be underestimated. Despite NGOs' critical role in society, they are constantly faced with unprecedented challenges, including vulnerability to

digital security, privacy, cyberattacks, and falling victim to surveillance software.

Although there is a lot of emphasis on cyber and digital security in the private sector and, to some extent, in government, there is a relatively low level of digital and cyber security support, training and activities for the non-profit sector in Africa.

It is for this reason that Penplusbytes convened a high-level virtual meeting of stakeholders on the 6th of December 2022 to deliberate on strategies to ensure non-profits' cyber and digital infrastructure become robust to withstand recent cyber-attacks.

The maiden Africa Cyber Security Summit for non-profits is an exclusive virtual event for stakeholders in the CSO, NGO and CBO space and cybersecurity profes-

sionals to engage, discuss, learn and network about the future of Cyber Security and its impact on nonprofits' resilience.

Touching on the speakers for the event, Executive Director of Penplusbytes, Jerry Sam explained that "Penplusbytes is assembling seasoned personalities, experts in the field of cyber and digital security to discuss best practices as well as proffer tested security solutions to professionals working in the NGO space in Africa."

On what participants should expect, "expert speakers for the event will be sharing their experiences with cyber threats and on best practices for cybersecurity as well as expose participants to some recent trends and developments in the sector and how to enhance cybersecurity solutions particularly for non-profits," he added.



Jerry Sam, Executive Director, Penplusbytes

The fully virtual summit will have sessions on: reinventing cybersecurity for non-profits, understanding social engineering attacks, cybersecurity response management, cybersecurity and social media, cybersecurity trends and developments and many others.

The one-day event was expected to bring together civil society actors, charitable organizations, volunteer organizations, associations, groups, social enterprises, academia, NGO leaders and cybersecurity professionals.



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## Guinea-Bissau Media Licenses Are "Attack" On The Press

By Lusa News

**T**he vice-president of the Guinean Human Rights League, Bubacar Turé, has said that the order setting new values for the attribution of permits for broadcasting, television, newspaper and filming activities in Guinea-Bissau is illegal and unconstitutional.

As a civil society organization that acts in the promotion and defense of human rights, we are surprised by this illegal decision by the Government of Guinea-Bissau", said Bubacar Turé to journalists at the House of Rights, in Bissau.

"This regime for some time now has accustomed us to attacking the media in various ways. We

have already witnessed the kidnapping and beating of journalists, destruction of media, incendiary speeches of encouragement and apology for violence against media," said Bubacar Turé.

The vice-president of the Guinean Human Rights League condemned the "illegal action" of the Government and demanded the "revocation of the joint dispatch of the Ministers of Social Communication and Finance".

"The media in no part of the world have an obligation to finance the functioning of the ministry", said Bubacar Turé, stressing that the dispatch justifies the new values with funding from the Ministry of Social Communication.

For Bubacar Turé, the "government drift against the media is part of the dictatorial drift to silence critical voices". "For us,

freedom of the press is an untouchable red line. Therefore, this order is yet another measure that is part of a set of acts by a Government that attacks freedom of the press, and that is allergic to freedom of the press and the scruti-

ny of public opinion," said the official. The vice-president of the Guinean Human Rights League also underlined that the "Government intends to mortally wound the constitutional principle of freedom of the press, resorting to il-

legal and disproportionate and even unconstitutional administrative procedures"

According to Bubacar Turé, the Government is trying to "asphyxiate the media based on shameful fees", which have not been "the subject of any study to determine with greater rigor and certainty the financial conditions of the media".

The Government actually has a constitutional duty to promote freedom of the press and subsidize the organs because their service is in the public interest. What is at stake is the rule of law, what is at stake is democracy and that is why they call for all the organizational forces to join this fight to defend freedom of the press, freedom of expression, the defense of democratic pluralism, which is a constitutional principle in Guinea-Bissau.



General News

# Gambia Delegation To ECOWAS Called On President Barrow

By The Gambia National Assembly

**O**n the sidelines of the 2022 Second Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Parliament, the Gambian delegation to the Community Parliament on Saturday 3rd December 2022 paid a courtesy call on the President of the Republic, His Excellency Adama Barrow.

The President was in Abuja to attend the 62nd ECOWAS Ordinary Session of Heads of State and Government slated for Sunday 4th December 2022.

The President was also on schedule to attend the swearing-in of Gambian-born President of the ECOW-

AS Commission, Dr. Omar Aliou Touray, and the ECOWAS Excellence Award to the former President of The Gambia, Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, for his leadership in establishing ECOMOG, restoring peace in the subregion, and championing and making Banjul the home of Human Rights.

The Majority Leader and Head of the Gambian delegation to ECOWAS Parliament Hon. Billay G. Tunkara expressed their appreciation to the President on the ascension of a Gambian to the presidency of the ECOWAS Commission.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Mamadou Tangara said that his Ministry was acting under the directive of the President to reach out to all his counterparts to present the Gambian candidate.



In his response, President Barrow noted the need for The Gambia to assume such a crucial position in the sub-regional organisation. He thanked the

delegation for the visit and assured them of his government's support to the course of diplomacy between The Gambia and Nigeria.

## National Assembly of Gambia Undergoes Pre-budget Retreat With CSOs to Examine 2023 Budget Estimates

**T**he National Assembly pre-budget retreat to examine the 2023 budget estimates began shortly after the tabling of the Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of the Government of The Gambia by the Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs on Monday 14th November 2022.

The Office of The Clerk in partnership with civil society



group, Gambia Participates stage the training to provide Hon. Members with the core skills required for effective budget scrutiny.

In his Opening Statement, the Speaker of The National Assembly, Hon. Fabakary Tombong Jatta observe the need to ensure that NAMs receive comprehensible information on the budget, resources, and skills to utilize such information.

This pre-budget analysis is in accordance with Section 27 of the Public Finance Act, 2014, which requires the National Assembly to appoint a

small core of technical staff to assist in gathering information, making research and analysis on issues pertinent to its deliberations and resolutions on the Budget submitted to the Assembly by the Minister.

In collaboration with The Gambia National Assembly, we've wrapped up a 3 days review retreat on the 2023 Executive Budget Proposal. Various thematic experts have provided members with insightful data that will help make informed decisions before approving the proposed budget. Parliamentarians will return back to plenary on November 23-24 2022 to debate the 2023 budget.



## Finance & Economy

# MP Shows up in Parliament with Kenkey and Fish for Budget Debate to Demonstrate Economic Hardship

By Clement Akoloh

The debate on the 2023 Budget on the Floor of Parliament of Ghana took an interesting turn where the Member of Parliament for the Sagnarigu Constituency and the Ranking Member on the Communications Committee, Alhaji A.B.A. Fuseini, stormed the House with a ball of kenkey and fish to illustrate a point of economic

hopelessness under the current New Patriotic Party administration.

Displaying a ball of Kenkey and fish, a popular corn meal staple eaten with fish in Ghana, the MP tried to underscore the economic deterioration within the period where he indicated that the size of the food enjoyed in the city and the major towns, has shrunk in size despite the fact that the price has doubled.

According to him, the real issues of the management of the economy vis a vis the impact it has on the lives of the people is clear by the relative change in the cost of food.

Making his contribution on the Floor of Parliament on Monday, December 5, 2022, Alhaji A.B.A. Fuseini, said, "Mr. Speaker," while he lifted the kenkey up in the air, "this ball of kenkey, even though it has suffered some Kwashiorkor, that was 2 Ghana Cedis. Mr. Speaker, today it is 4 Ghana Cedis."

Repeating the same procedure, Hon. Fuseini, lifted the fish and said, "Mr. Speaker, this fish which I bought the same size last year, was 6 Ghana Cedis.

Mr. Speaker, this one is 12 Ghana Cedis. This kenkey and this fish alone.

"Mr. Speaker, it is abundantly clear that through the crust incompetence of this Government, especially the Economic Management Team and the Minister for Finance, this country has been run into a ditch."

He once again urged the Majority Members of Parliament who had called for the dismissal of the Finance Minister at the beginning of this meeting, to ensure that he is shown the door by supporting the Minority with their numbers to execute the Vote of Censure motion currently before the House.

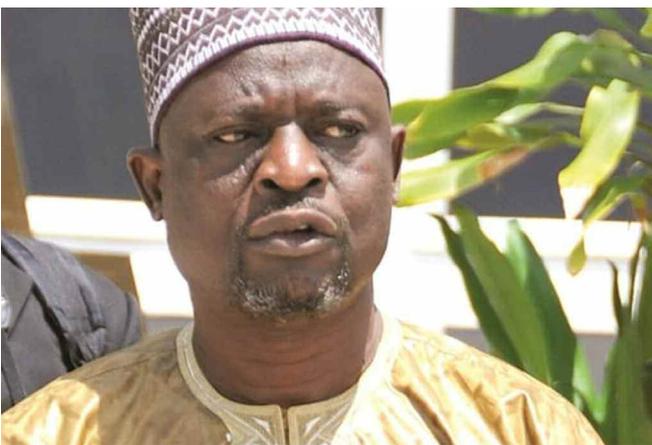
The economy has suffered significantly since early 2022, plunging the country into a full-blown economic recession. Inflation rose from 13.9% in January to 37.2% in September, and some analysts believe the actual level is more than twice the official rate – possibly as high as 98%. Petrol and diesel prices have jumped by 88.6% and 128.6% respectively. Most public transport fares have increased by over 100% since January.

Likewise, water and electricity tariffs have risen by 27.2% and 21.6% respectively this year. According to the World Bank, Ghana has the highest food prices in sub-Saharan Africa, with prices soaring by 122% since January.

The country's interest rate of 30% and lending rate of 35% are the highest in Africa. Bloomberg says the Ghana cedi is now the worst performing currency globally, and the IMF revised Ghana's projected growth rate for 2022 from 5.2% to 3.2%.

Ghana's economic woes continue as the country seeks International Monetary Fund (IMF) support for the 17th time. The bailout was necessary after the new electronic transaction levy (e-levy) – a 1.5% tax on all electronic transfers above GHS100 – failed to yield the expected results.

Previous IMF programmes have improved macroeconomic stability in Ghana. Fiscal discipline in the country often depends on these programmes, as self-imposed controls are rare. Nonetheless, the solution to Ghana's crisis lies with its government and people.



MP for Sagnarigu Constituency Alhaji A.B.A Fuseini

## Cape Verde: Parliament Debates And Approves Budget Bill For The 2023 Economic Year

By Lusa News

report of the diploma under consideration.

PAICV's initial intervention was made by its bench leader who considered the OE '23 as "selfish and unsupported" and which did not help Cape Verdeans to cope with this difficult time due to the continued and rampant increase in the cost of living.

A budget that, according to João Baptista Pereira, except for some measures with marginal social impact, brings nothing new about the 2022 budget.

Different understanding has the MPD parliamentary leader for whom the state budget was tailored to the country "in a very complex, unpre-



dictable and challenging context of governance." In his initial communication Paulo Veiga said that the document "prioritizes continuing to manage contingencies and

emergencies to protect people and companies, relaunch the economy; and prepare the country for the future of greater resilience and sustainability."

The Independent and Democratic Union (UCID) understands that the OE2023 does not reflect the aspirations of Cape Verdeans in terms of replenishing the purchasing power and well-being of the population.

João Santos Luis, considers that the Budget presents significant increases in several ranks, namely the eventual bonuses that increase more than 40 percent of travel and stays by more than 21 percent, reaching values of approximately 794 thousand escudos. Still in his initial intervention the president of UCID was "concerned" with the reduction of funds for education and the "extremely high" increase of public debt.

The draft law that approves the State Budget for the economic year of 2023 is being debated in general in Parliament. Under the regimental terms the debate lasted for 10 hours.

The Prime Minister, Ulysses Correia e Silva, introduced the debate considering that this budget was prepared in a context of national and international uncertainty, and is focused on increasing resilience and the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the archipelago.

The rapporteur of the Specialized Finance and Budget Committee then presented the

## Diplomatic And Bilateral Relations

# AU ropes PAP into Nigeria Pre-election Assessment and Special Political Mission



**T**he African Union (AU) has resolved to harness the Pan-African African Parliament (PAP)'s unique value proposition as a representation of the African citizens, in its bid to consolidate democratic gains for peace and stability in Africa.

H.E Hon. Chief Fortune Charumbira,

President of Africa's premier parliamentary forum was solicited by the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) to participate in the AU Pre-election Assessment and Special Political Mission to the Federal Republic of Nigeria from 27 November to 3 December 2022.

The President of the PAP joins a

high-level delegation comprised of a distinguished member of the African Union Panel of the Wise and African Union Commission (AUC) Senior Officials. The mission forms part of a constructive approach of preventive diplomacy with a view to exchange views with key role players in Nigeria ahead of the Presidential, House of Representatives, and Senate elections slated for February 2023.

The involvement of the PAP, represented at the highest level of its leadership, demonstrates how the institution's commitment to reinvent and reposition itself within the AU's democratic governance architecture has resonated positively throughout the entire continental organisation.

In addition to giving a voice to the African peoples and the Diaspora, the PAP is tasked with promoting the principle of human rights and democracy in Africa. Africa's Parliament also seeks to encourage good governance, transparency, and accountability in the AU Member States.

"I'm honoured to take part in this

important assignment on behalf of the Pan-African Parliament. This shows that we have regained the confidence of our Union and we are regarded as a critical element in the implementation of the Africa Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance (ACDEG)," said H.E Hon. Chief Fortune Charumbira.

The AU Pre-election Assessment and Special Political Mission aim to pave the way for a creditable, peaceful, and acceptable electoral process by all actors, in line with continental and international norms and standards of democratic elections.

In this regard, the delegation is engaging with Nigerian National institutions and relevant stakeholders, including the Independent National Electoral Commission (NEC), Ministry of Justice, National Assembly, National Human Rights Commission, National Council of Civic Education, Office of the National Security, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence, National Anti-corruption Bodies; Political Parties, Civil Society organisations, Media and Partners.

# Mali bans NGOs funded or supported by France

AfricaNews/AFP

**T**he Malian junta announced Monday evening that it would ban the activities of all non-governmental organizations financed or supported by France, including those operating in the humanitarian field.

This decision is likely to affect many NGOs that France has continued to support despite the abrupt deterioration in relations between the two countries for more than a year.

The interim Prime Minister, Colonel Abdoulaye Maiga, justified the decision in a statement posted on social networks by the recent announcement by France that it had suspended its official development assistance to Mali.

The French Foreign Ministry had cited the use of the Russian paramilitary group Wagner by

Malian authorities.

The junta, which came to power by force in August 2020, has consistently denied having used this company, whose actions have been criticized in several countries. It speaks of Russian army instructors deployed in the name of a former collaboration between the two countries.

The Quai d'Orsay had specified that France maintained its "humanitarian aid" and some support to Malian civil society organizations.

Colonel Maiga denounced in his statement "fanciful allegations" and a "subterfuge intended to deceive and manipulate national and international public opinion for the purpose of destabilization and isolation of Mali.

"As a result, the transitional government has decided to ban, with immediate effect, all activities carried out by NGOs operating in Mali with funding

or with material or technical support from France, including in the humanitarian field," it said.

A multitude of NGOs are working in Mali in the fields of health, food or education. The poor, landlocked country has been facing the spread of ji-

hadism and violence of all kinds since 2012, but also a serious political and humanitarian crisis. Hundreds of thousands of people are displaced by the conflict.

Since May 2021 and a second coup d'état that consolidated their grip, the colonels have

turned away from France, which was pushed out and whose last soldier left the country in August after nine years of engagement against the jihadists alongside the Malian army. The colonels have turned militarily and diplomatically to Moscow.

A group of NGOs, including CCFD Terre-Solidaire, Handicap International, Médecins du Monde, and Oxfam, had expressed concern about France's suspension of its aid. Recipients of a large part of this funding, these NGOs were alarmed in a letter to President Emmanuel Macron that the withdrawal of such funding would lead to "the cessation of essential, even vital activities (...) for the benefit of populations in situations of great fragility or poverty".

They pointed out that 7.5 million Malians were in need of assistance, "or more than 35% of the population", and that Mali was ranked 184th on the Human Development Index.



Colonel Abdoulaye Maiga

# Gender, Children and Social Welfare

## Attack on Senegalese Female MP: ECOWAS Parliament to Issue Statement Soon



By Kwaku Sakyi-Danso

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Parliament is to issue a statement on the attack of a Senegalese female lawmaker Hon Amy Ndiaye by a male colleague in their National Assembly – a video that has gone viral and attracted condemnation of this act.

A member of the Senegalese delegation to the Community Parliament, Abdoulaye Vilane raised this issue at the plenary on Saturday, December 3, 2022 when Liberia and Sierra Leone were scheduled to present their country report to the plenary.

The third deputy Speaker of the Community Parliament Memounatou Ibrahima, fourth deputy Speaker Adja Satu Camara Pinto Hon. Abdoulaye Vilane and the Parliament Secretariat are to issue a statement in the coming days.

On point of order his colleague

from Togo drew Mr. Speaker's attention that the House has an agenda it has adopted for the day, they should and asked that they stick to the agenda which Speaker Dr. Sidie M. Tunis agreed with.

The Speaker on the subject matter pointed out that, respect for women anywhere is very important and whatever the circumstance violence against women should not be allowed, and recounted that there has been violence before in the Sierra Leone Parliament and other parliaments within the sub-region and the world at large.

And as a Speaker the attack of the Senegalese female MP, what he saw on the video circulating is something the community parliament will look at, at a later time, they will look at other videos from other parliament irrespective of where the incident happened in this particular case all of them are concerned because of what they saw.

“A man coming across whether the person is an MP coming across and actually beating up a woman, I am sure we will look at it, but like

what the MP from Togo said there is an agenda that has been adopted and any other thing relating to the matter will come later on”.

The Rt. Hon speaker urged a Committee of the Community Parliament, Committee on Political Affairs, Peace, Security and African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to take a critical look at the kind of things happening now.

If the need be a visit be made to Senegal either in January or February of next year not because of the female MP attacked in question, but to look at the entire political situation considering the outcome of their Legislative Assembly election.

There are a lot of changes that has taken place in Senegal, that probably warrant the intervention of that committee and from what I

hear, it's the opposition MP that beat up the government MP normally it's the other way round but this time it's the opposition MP and its very serious even if your visit is for a week, he stated.

Speaker Tunis backed the point raised by Abdoulaye Vilane, stating that if there were security forces around when the female MP was in danger all that was needed was to call the security to come in.

“If my Speaker in Sierra Leone's life is in danger we cannot handle, the best you can do is to call in the state security. I am the Speaker of ECOWAS Parliament, I am not justifying police entering our parliament, I am only saying you need police to protect the Hon Speaker and Hon members if there was a police officer around, this will not have happened in Senegal”.

“Let say in the case of Sierra Leone, if the police were not around, “our Speaker would have been in the hospital by now”, he added.



MPs at the plenary

## Less than 20 Percent of Women Occupy Elected Positions in Sierra Leone - Kadie Sesay

By Kwaku Sakyi-Danso

The only female among the Sierra Leonean delegation to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Parliament, Veronica Kadie Sesay has said less than twenty (20) percent of females occupy elected positions in her country.

Despite the fact that women account for fifty-one (51) percent of the total population, their voice, visibility, participation and representation in elective and appointive position remains very low compared to the men.

She made this known on Saturday, December 3, 2022 when she presented the Country re-

port of her country at the plenary at the ongoing Second Ordinary Session of the Community Parliament in Abuja Nigeria.

The challenges faced by women are many and include lack of economic independence, high illiteracy and entrenched customs and traditions, political violence and reprisals, the absence of progressive laws that protect and promote participation of women, and the lack of confidence to vie for public positions.

Gender representation is relatively low in Sierra Leone as in the rest of West Africa. Sierra Leone was ranked 182nd out of 189 countries on the UNDP's Gender Development Index in 2020, and nearly half of the bottom 20 countries were in West Africa.

Today, 18 out of 146 (12%) MPs in Sierra Leone's Parliament are women while only four women serve in a Cabinet of 32 Ministers. The four Ministers head the gender, tourism, marine and social welfare ministries.

The President, His Excellency Dr. Julius Maada Bio, in his stance for an affirmative action for female representation, has been constantly giving support to the Gender Empowerment Bill, which was enacted on the 11th of November 2022.

Also, the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act, 2022 seeks to address gender imbalances by making provision for increased elective positions for women, the promotion of gender equality in employment and training, the implementation of gender mainstreaming and

budgeting, for access to financial institutions and to prescribe procedures for the improvement of women's access to finance.

The Public Elections Act 2022, which was also recently passed into law, provides for a woman to be among every three candi-

dates to be presented by political parties for election to Parliament or Local Council. Both the Gender Empowerment law and the Public Elections Act, 2022 will strengthen, enhance and improve women's participation and representation in Parliament and the Local Councils.



Hon Veronica Kadie Sesay

# Gender, Children and Social Welfare

## Women at the Forefront of Climate Action

By UNDP

**F**acilitating women's access to land is helping to improve forest restoration and food security in Ghana.

"3 years ago, I didn't have my own farm but was supporting my husband on his cocoa farm. You see, am a very hardworking woman, and having my own farm gives me so much joy and independence", noted Theresa Mawusi.

Located in the small town called Anwianwia in the Asunafo North Municipal Assembly of the Ahafo Region of Ghana, Theresa and some of her peers narrated how difficult it is for women to have access to farmlands in communities around forest reserves. "The problem is that we have limited farming land in this area because of the Ayum forest reserve. We grow a lot of cocoa here so mostly is the men who get access to the limited land to farm", stated Rose Praman who lives in Akwaduro, another village in the Asunafo-North Municipality.

### Addressing land inequity

The system that regulates access and control over land and land tenure differs widely across regions in Ghana. Until the passage of a new land Act in 2020 (Act 1036) to safeguard spousal land rights, which presumes that any land acquired during marriage by one spouse is co-owned by both spouses, generally men were having exclusive property rights to land excluding women. Despite the new law, feedback from the women shows that the situation has not changed on the ground. Evidence shows that equity in access and control over land is an important tool for women's economic empowerment in developing countries.



**As part of efforts to support the country meets its climate mitigation targets, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with the Ghana Cocoa Board and Mondelez International are supporting farmers to have access to degraded forest reserves for agroforestry through the Environmentally Sustainable Production Practices in Cocoa Landscapes project.**

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project.

Through the project's interventions and with the support of the Forestry Commission, women like Theresa and Rose now boast of 10 acres and 5 acres of farms respectively in the degraded Ayum Forest Reserve. They are mix cropping vegetables and plantains with trees. The approach for this intervention is known as the Modified Taungya System (MTS), where the project team supports the farmers to get access to degraded forest reserve land for the planting of food crops and economic trees like Mahogany (*Khaya ivorensis*), Onyina (*Ceiba pentandra*), Ofram (*Terminalia superba*), Cedrela (*Cedrela odorata*), Mansonia (*Mansonia altissima*) and Emire (*Terminalia ivorensis*).

For the women, the opportunity to have access to land has improved their source of livelihood,

whiles taking care of the environment.

"I get about 250 plantain bunches from my four-acre farm per harvest season, most of which I sell. I can harvest four times within three years before the plantain trees stop yielding. The trees we plant with the crops also give us shade on the farm," Vero Asilenu, one of the project beneficiaries stated.

### Payment for ecosystem services

The project has since 2020 been supporting about 270 farmers, including 155 women with vegetative parts (plantain and cocoyam suckers), and vegetables (ginger, onion, tomatoes, and okro). The farmers also benefit from capacity building on good agro-forestry practices and are getting rewards for their efforts.

"We get food and do small savings with the Village Loans & Savings Scheme that we are members of, and also save with the bank. The thing is that you have helped us so we also have to work hard in order not to disgrace, so we can get more support", Rose added.

The MTS, which is a legally binding land lease arrangement, allows the farmers to co-own the plantations with the Forestry Commission. They are entitled to the MTS plots till the tree reaches canopy height. The project is also in the process of paying the farmers to incentivize them, through a results-based approach, based on survival rates of trees planted, to enable them

the ecosystem services, which is performance-based. The data shows that annual payment will range between Ghc200-Ghc5000 per farmer and the plan is to continue this arrangement for six years when trees will have formed canopy", added Atsu Titiat, the UNDP Project Manager.

Since 2020, the farmers have planted almost half a million economic seedlings, helping to restore about 328 hectares of the degraded Ayum Forest Reserve.

"Our focus is to reduce carbon emissions by restoring degraded forests while also helping to provide an additional source of income for the farmers. We want to upscale the MTS after the successful pilot in the Asunafo-North Municipality and this needs more partnerships", explained Ayirebi Frimpong, Forest Specialist at UNDP Ghana.

### Inclusive natural resource management for all

The race to win the climate fight requires more partnerships to facilitate the participation of both men and women in climate action at all levels. Trees are very critical in the fight against climate change as they capture carbon and reduce emissions from the atmosphere.

The story of these women demonstrates that, when we expand women's access to productive resources, we can improve food security, livelihood, and reduce carbon emissions. Strengthening women's access to land will ensure that natural resources management is inclusive for a sustainable and a more equal future for all.



to invest in the establishment of additional MTS plots and help accelerate climate action.

"We have completed the tree census to estimate the survival rate to facilitate the payment of



**AMBASSADE DE FRANCE AU GHANA**

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

## Elections

# PAP holds Youth Dialogue on Ending Malnutrition and Hunger in Africa

By PAP Media & Comms Unit

**Y**oung parliamentarians in Africa have been challenged to take the lead in the formulation of policies and strategies that enhance the full participation of the African youth in political and decision-making processes.

President of the Pan-African Parliament, H. E. Hon. Chief Fortune Charumbira made the call during the official opening of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) Youth Dialogue, hosted by the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco, under the theme: "The promotion of good governance through the elimination of hunger and malnutrition: En-



hancing the role of young parliamentarians and the youth in Africa's Legislature." The Dialogue which began on 04 December ended on 06 December 2022 in line with the African Union (AU) theme of 2022.

In his address, H. E. Hon. Chief Charumbira tasked the Continental Parliament's Caucus on Youth to champion issues of climate change, education and youth employment on behalf of the African youth in line with the PAP's mandate. H. E. Hon. Charumbira further challenged the gathering to come up with concrete roadmap to implement the key resolutions that will emanate from this Dialogue

H. E. Hon. Charumbira recalled previous similar youth engagements organized by the Continental Parliament as he sought to ignite a reflection on the need to monitor and evaluate these past gatherings in a bid to ensure that the Rabat Dialogue adopts a result-based approach, which guarantees impact on the ground.

Welcoming participants, H.E. Rachid Talbi Alami, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Morocco told young Parliamentarians and the African youth representatives gathered in Rabat that food insecurity is one of the most pressing issues facing the continent. According to him, young people are the key to achieving the African renaissance and the development of the continent. He added that it is time for Africa to take advantage of its wealth including the democratic dividend presented by the youth.

H. E. Naama Mayara, Speaker of the House of Councilors of Morocco was adamant that the 4th industrial revolution is an opportunity to take advantage of the talent of our youth. He said that a lot of ground was lost due to Covid-19 and it's time to strengthen actions on food security, with the youth at the forefront, to enable Africa to move forward with its agenda.

H. E. Mohamed Almahdi Ben Saeed, Minister of Youth and Culture of the Kingdom of Morocco said that the Kingdom has put mechanisms in place to harness youth potential in finding solutions to several challenges.

The Kingdom, he stressed, stands ready to accompany the efforts of the African Union to empower Young Africans to achieve Continental development.

Hon. Laila Dahi – Chairperson of the Pan-African Parliament Caucus on Youth accepted the challenge for young Parliamentarians to lead efforts to coordinate youth-related issues and promote policy implementation to make youth development and mainstreaming a reality.

The first day of the PAP Youth Dialogue in Morocco included a Panel presentation and discussion on the role of parliaments in youth empowerment; African Union Methods for Youth Empowerment and Inclusion with a focus on AU Women and Youth Financial and Economic Inclusion Initiative and AU 1 million next level; and an engagement on empowering the youth through existing Legal and Continental commitments pledged by Members states.

The second session of the Youth Dialogue focused on how the youth can use Agenda 2063 to eradicate hunger and malnutrition.

Mr. Shumba Tichawona, Ag. Director at African Union Office of Strategic Planning and Delivery in



his presentation, outlined achievements and lessons from the first Ten - Year action and plan and what is expected from the second Ten-Year Implementation of Agenda 2063- especially in relation to the AU theme of the year 2022: "Strengthening Resilience Food Security and Nutrition on the African Continent: Strengthening

1st Vice- Chairperson of the Pan-African Parliament Caucus Youth Caucus moderated the session and led the charge by young Pan-African Parliamentarians for an inquiry on the tangible gains registered since the implementation phase of Agenda 2063 commenced a few years ago. Members of the PAP have demanded more informa-



Agro-Food Systems, Health, and Social Protection Systems for the Acceleration of Human, Social and Economic Capital Development."

Hon. Tatenda Annastacia Mavetera,

tion on the key highlights, achievements and place occupied by the youth within the framework of the Agenda. This will enable legislators to convey information at national levels.



**...young people are the key to achieving the African renaissance and the development of the continent. He added that it is time for Africa to take advantage of its wealth including the democratic dividend presented by the youth.**

## Gender, Children and Social Welfare

# ECOWAS Parliament Condemns Barbaric Violence Attack on Ndiaye Gniby

By Kwaku Sekyi Danso

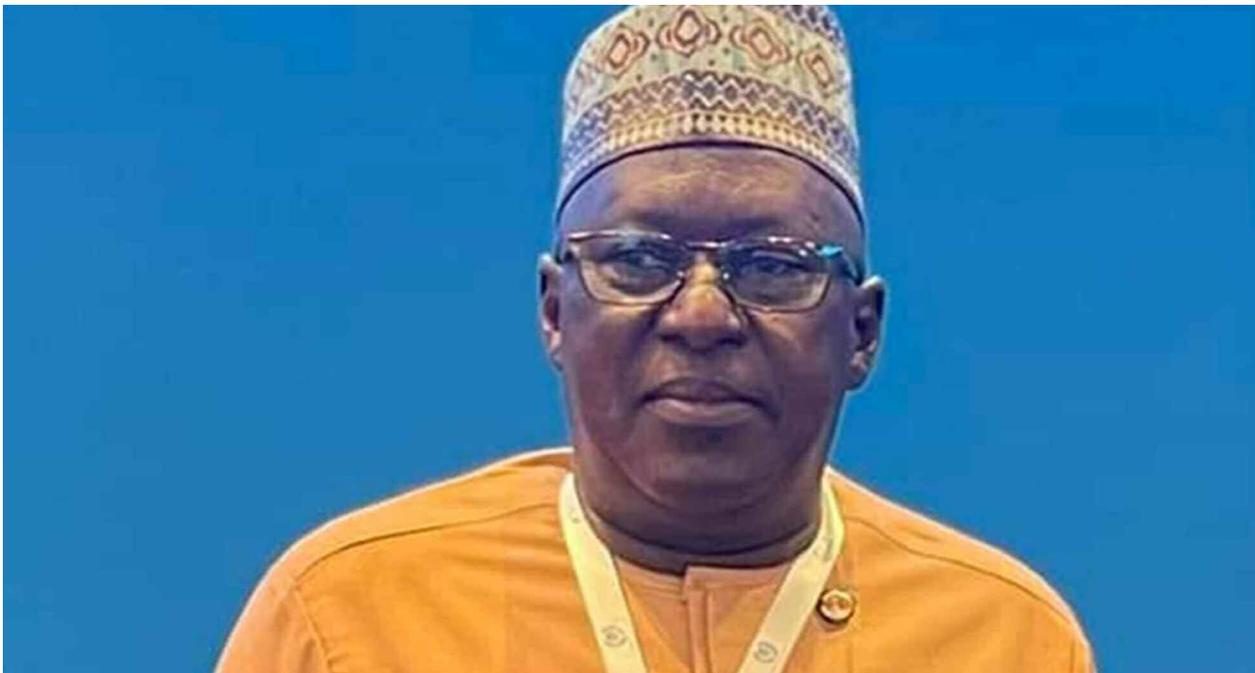
The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Parliament, has condemned the barbaric and despicable violence perpetrated on a female lawmaker of the Senegal Parliament, Amy Ndiaye Gniby on Thursday, December 1, 2022 which has gone viral.

At its plenary Session on December 3, 2022 at the ongoing Second Ordinary Session deliberated and adopted the following declaration:

1. The ECOWAS Parliament strongly condemns this despicable act unworthy of a parliamentarian from the ECOWAS region at a time when we are witnessing a proliferation of initiatives to prevent and eliminate violence against women and come helping women who are victims of it;

2. Reiterates its commitment to respect for women, and reaffirms that any form of violence against women is unacceptable, whatever the situation and whatever the circumstances;

3. Recalls that the State of Senegal, in addition to its fundamental law, has signed and ratified the in-



Rt Hon Speaker of ECOWAS Parliament, Dr. Sidie Mohamed Tunis

4. Reaffirms that this act, whatever the circumstances, cannot be justified nor tolerated in a country which guarantees parity between men and women in politics;

5. Considering that one of the key goals of the 5th Legislature of the ECOWAS Parliament is to

strengthen women participation in politics and that the action as witnessed is very regrettable as it sends negative impressions of the gains made in the past few years, the ECOWAS Parliament will continue to support and advocate for increased women participation and condemn any act of violence and abuse against women in general.

6. While wishing a speedy re-

covery to the victim MP, the ECOWAS Parliament urges the Senegalese State, in collaboration with the National Assembly of Senegal to take the necessary steps to ensure that justice is done for this unfortunate event.

**Dr. Sidie Mohamed TUNIS**  
Rt. Hon. Speaker of the  
ECOWAS Parliament

# NGO Considers That Female Journalists Are Undervalued In Guinea-Bissau

By Lusa News

The Association for Cooperation Among the Peoples has highlighted that the majority of women journalists in Guinea-Bissau are outside the leadership positions, despite representing a quarter of media professionals in the country.

The head of ACEP, Ana Filipa Oliveira, noted that, although they make up a quarter of media professionals, Guinean female journalists are not part of newsroom leadership and are almost always relegated to "more peripheral topics".

The representative was speaking to Lusa on the sidelines



Head of ACEP, Ana Filipa Oliveira

of the opening of an exhibition, which will be open until the end of January 2023, with 14 paintings, with photographs of women journalists, in which

you can see their daily work. The exhibition, on display at the House of Rights, in Bissau, is part of a set of ongoing activities within the scope of

the ninth fortnight of human rights in Guinea-Bissau.

Ana Filipa Oliveira considered it important to associate the fortnight of rights with the role of journalism and women in structuring the rule of law and democracy, with a focus on freedom of information. "These Guinean women journalists somewhat personify these two rights that we intend to represent and speak about", defended the Portuguese journalist, noting that the exhibition opened today intends to put the two themes to public debate: "Women and journalism in Guinea-Bissau". Ana Filipa Oliveira also pointed to the existence of machismo in the newsrooms, the double shift of journalists, who after work also perform tasks at home, precariousness, persecution and physical threats,

to emphasize that it is difficult to be a journalist in Guinea-Bissau.

"There are some barriers here, some obstacles that need to be overcome", noted Ana Filipa Oliveira, for whom it is necessary to give more visibility to the work of journalists in Guinea-Bissau. The exhibition is the result of a partnership between ACEP, Casa dos Direitos and the Association of Women Social Communication Professionals (Amprocs) of Guinea-Bissau, to which, said Ana Oliveira, "we need to give new impetus". Alongside the exhibition of photo frames with 14 journalists, Casa dos Direitos also opened today a book fair, whose proceeds will revert to that association for the protection and promotion of Human Rights in Guinea-Bissau.

## Elections

# Benin: Seven Political Parties Involved in the Legislative Elections of 8 January 2023

By Florence D.Y. Gbolu

The main opposition party The Democrats (LD), thanks to a decision of the Constitutional Court, joined six other qualified parties in the next election of deputies in Benin. As a result of this court decision, the party was able to receive its final receipt at the Autonomous National Electoral Commission (CENA) a few days ago.

The Progressive Union - Renewal (UP-R) and the Republican Bloc (BR), the Movement of Elites Com-

mitted to the Emancipation of Benin (Moele-Benin), the Democratic Union for a New Benin (UDBN), all parties of the presidential majority, the People's Liberation Movement (MPL) and the Cauris Force for an Emergent Benin (FCBE) claiming from the opposition also presented lists in this election. In total seven lists engaged in the election of the deputies of the ninth legislature.

In the upcoming parliamentary elections, eight (08) candidates were registered at the Electoral Commission (Céna) from October 28, 2022 to November 2, 2022.

The Beninese Parliament is currently

composed of the deputies of the Progressive Union - Renewal (UP-R) and the Republican Bloc (BR), both supporting the President of the Republic.

This makes many observers say that it is a monocolourous National Assembly.

The opposition parties boycotted the last election in 2019 because they did not respect the news of the electoral code imposed this year.

The election code requires that a political party pay a fee, which has been increased by 97%, and also get 10% of the vote.



The President of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), H. E. Chief Fortune Charumbira with the AU Pre-election Mission to Nigeria has held a meeting with the Inspector General of Police of Nigeria at the Police headquarters on the readiness of the security agencies to ensure a violence-free election.

The mission forms part of a constructive approach of preventive diplomacy in order to exchange views with key role players in Nigeria ahead of the Presidential, House of Representatives, and Senate elections slated for February 2023.

The AU Pre-election Assessment and Special Political Mission aim to pave the way for a creditable, peaceful, and acceptable electoral process by all actors, in line with continental and international norms and standards of democratic elections.

In this regard, the delegation is engaging with Nigerian National institutions and relevant stakeholders, including the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Ministry of Justice, National Assembly, National Human Rights Commission, National Council of Civic Education, Office of the National Security, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence, National Anti-corruption Bodies, Political Parties, Civil Society Organizations, and Media partners.

H.E Hon. Chief Fortune Charumbira, President of the legislative arm of the Africa Union (AU) was solicited by the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) to participate in the AU Pre-election Assessment and Special Political Mission to the Federal Republic of Nigeria from 27 November to 3 December 2022. He joins a high-level delegation comprised of distinguished

## Pan-African Parliament President And African Union Pre-Election Mission Holds Meeting

### With Stakeholders Ahead Of Nigeria's Elections



members of the African Union Panel of the Wise and African Union Commission (AUC) Senior Officials.

The involvement of the PAP, represented at the highest level of its leadership, demonstrates how the institution's commitment to reinvent and reposition itself within the AU's democratic governance architecture has resonated positively throughout the entire continental organization. In addition to giving a voice to the African peoples and the Diaspora, the PAP is tasked with promoting the principle of human rights and democracy in Africa. Africa's Parliament also seeks to encourage good governance, transparency, and accountability in the AU Member States.

"I'm honoured to take part in this important assignment on behalf

of the Pan-African Parliament. This shows that we have regained the confidence of our Union and we are regarded as a critical element in the implementation of the Africa Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance (ACDEG)," said H.E Hon. Chief Fortune Charumbira.

Earlier in the week, H.E Hon. Chief Fortune Charumbira delivered a message of solidarity to the opening of the 2nd Ordinary Session of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Parliament on 28 November 2022 in Abuja, Nigeria.

In his message, the PAP President described ECOWAS Parliament as a successful Parliamentary bloc, which has played a key role in promoting political and socio-economic integration of the West African community. "You are one



of the best regional Parliamentary set-ups on the continent and everyone should copy from you. We came here to tell you that you are doing very well and you should continue on that path," he pointed out.

H.E.Hon. Chief Charumbira expressed gratitude to the leadership of the ECOWAS Parliament for the active collaboration with the PAP, as he recalled that a common purpose guides the two institutions to serve the people of Africa. The PAP President touted a collaborative framework with ECOWAS Parliament on various areas including food security, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), education, and peace and security. He further called on West African Parliamentarians to advocate for African development, in line with Agenda 2063, based on African values and principles.

He informed the ECOWAS Parliament of the entrenchment of the principle of rotational leadership at the level of the Presidency of PAP. "This principle is part and parcel of the recently amended Rules of Procedure of the PAP. We have made sure that the principle of rotation is observed throughout all the structures including leadership of Regional Caucuses and Permanent Committees," he emphasized.

The 2nd Ordinary Session of the 5th Legislature of ECOWAS Parliament is dedicated to the consideration and presentation of the Consolidated Community Budget for the year 2023, Reports from Joint, Standing and Ad hoc Committees, Reports from Fact-Finding and Oversight Missions, Country Reports, and Interactive sessions. The Session will run until 18 December 2022.

# Africa Strives to Halt Dog-mediated Human Deaths by 2030

By FAO Africa

“The rabies situation in Banian is worrying and constitutes a real public health problem” said Dr. Alpha Oumar Barry, animal health consultant at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Guinea, referring to the two cases of confirmed dog rabies, 19 reported dog bites to humans and nine dog-eaten animals in the Banian sub-prefecture, located in east-central Guinea, from January to February 2022.

In Banian, the problem of rabies is no exception, and bites from stray dogs are generally the primary factor. Yet, this disease is little or poorly known by the rural population (neglect of bite cases, non-reporting of bites to the relevant services, etc.). Rabies in this sub-prefecture has always been a concern for the government, particularly the technical services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Public Health and develop-

ment partners.

Rabies is caused by a virus that affects the nervous system, a disease that mainly affects children, easily vulnerable due to contact with pet animals.

Although entirely preventable, dog-transmitted human rabies kills tens of thousands of people every year, particularly in rural and poor areas of Africa and Asia. It takes motivation, commitment and resources to effectively control rabies in parts of the world where the disease continues to impose a heavy burden.

prevent rabies were broadcasted.

The vaccination campaign not only highlighted the effectiveness of the One Health approach in the fight against zoonotic diseases, but also made dog owners aware of the benefits of pet vaccination.

Rabies remains a serious global health problem in more than 150 countries around the world. In May 2022, reports of a suspected rabies human case prompted a joint United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), Provincial Health Services (SPS) and Provincial Health Directorate (DPS) and

of vaccinating domestic animals to avoid rabies”, he added.

With financial support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), FAO ECTAD, DPAP, SPS/DPS and WHO conducted a public awareness campaign on the risks and dangers of living with unvaccinated dogs through two community radio stations and a rabies vaccination campaign in Mueda and Chiure districts, from 27 June to 4 July 2022 and 5 to 8 September 2022, which covered the vaccination of 711 dogs out of 792 corresponding to 90 percent coverage in Chiure and 483 dogs out of a total of 795, corresponding



In view of the risk of exposure to rabies for those bitten, the Ministry of Livestock of Guinea, in collaboration with partners such as the FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD), the National One Health Platform, the United States Agency of International Development (USAID) and Breakthrough Action (BA) developed a dog vaccination and response plan.

Over 2 500 dogs were vaccinated and de-wormed on 9 May 2022 in Banian sub-prefecture thanks to the commitment of dog owners, local authorities, the One Health Platform and vaccination teams. This activity was preceded by a month of awareness raising messages on appropriate behaviour to

Provincial Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DPAP) collaboration on the other side of the African continent, in Mozambique.

A joint risk surveillance mission carried out in Cabo Delgado province, the northernmost province of Mozambique, concluded that the rabies situation was of concern, with more than eight suspected cases of human rabies infection since August 2021.

Dr. Ramalho Lourenço Manuel, Head of Department of the Provincial Veterinary Services of Cabo Delgado affirmed that “as a government we cannot allow lives to be lost” because of rabies. “Everything is being done to make communities aware of the importance

to 61 percent of the total estimated by the District Services of Economic Activities (SDAE) in Mueda.

Joint FAO, WHO and government assessments as well as a One Health planning for response proved cost-effective with logistics for transportation being provided by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) through the United Nations Humanitarian Air Services.

Animal outreach service providers in the district are ready to finalise the vaccination, but it is essential that partners make a collective effort to ensure vaccination of the remaining 10 percent and 39 percent of dogs in Chiure and Mueda respectively.



**Although entirely preventable, dog-transmitted human rabies kills tens of thousands of people every year, particularly in rural and poor areas of Africa and Asia. It takes motivation, commitment and resources to effectively control rabies in parts of the world where the disease continues to impose a heavy burden.**

## General News

# Speaker of Parliament Issues Stern Warning After Commotion

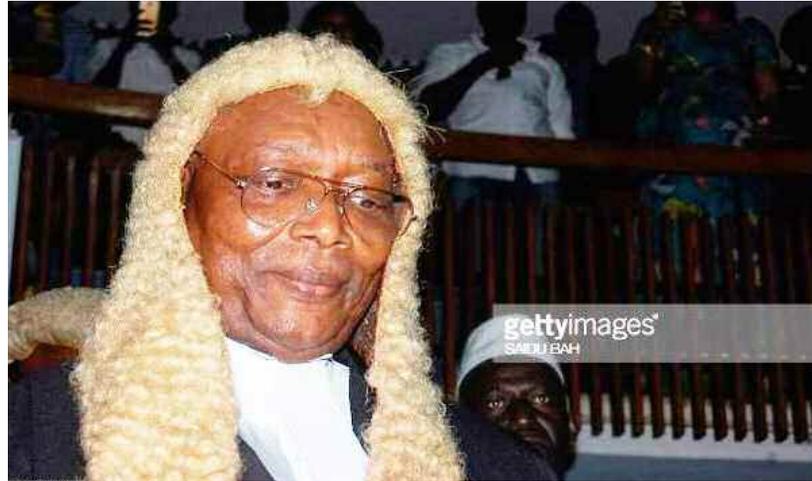
By PUG

The Speaker of the Fifth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone, Hon. Dr. Abass C. Bundu has in his announcement on Thursday 24th November, 2022 plenary sitting said that yesterday's incident that witnessed the injuring of persons, damaging of furniture and electronic devices was a commotion, adding that Sections 97 and 99 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone are cardinal as to how MPs should conduct themselves.

He said that the conduct of MPs the day before was an affront to his office and the sanctity of Parliament, noting, "yesterday's conduct will go with severe consequences, it is an affront to the dignity of the House and Office of Speaker, the law will be allowed to take its consequences."

The Speaker emphasized that no immunity will be enjoyed by the violators.

Apparently, the Speaker was not detailed on what specific actions (judicial or legislative) will be



Speaker of the Fifth Parliament of the Second Republic of Sierra Leone, Hon. Dr. Abass C. Bundu

taken, by who, when and how.

It is worth noting that lawmakers reduced themselves into physical and violent fight when the acting Justice Minister Umaru Napoleon tabled a 'The Public Elections (Local Councils Proportional Representation System) Regulations, 2022

The Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991 (Act No. 6 of 1991)

Statutory Instrument No.13 and, The Public Elections (District Block Proportional Representation Sys-

tem) Regulations, 2022

The Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991 (Act No.6 of 1991) Statutory Instrument No.14."

At the heart of the disagreement lies lack of bipartisan consensus and breakdown, procedural and legal arguments around the nexus between Section 33 and 38.1 of the constitution.

Politically, it is worth noting that if the two legislations are going to be accepted or rejected, the mover

must produce a two third majority of 98 votes, which no political party has at the moment.

Conversely, an inventory on the aftermath of the violent 48th plenary sitting (Wednesday 23rd November, 2022) of parliament, the Parliamentary Update Group (PUG) revealed that there was a broken seat found in the left, broken flower pots, broken desktop tablet computers and damaged tables.

Who is to take responsibility for the wreaked havoc on public properties will be another matter of 'buff case' if the Bintumani ugly incident is to be cited?

It is the considered view of the PUG that there is an impartial microscopic reviewing of the CCTV Footage and violent actors must be dragged to the Ethics Committee (which has been toothless and unaccountable with instilling discipline in the House) and if found wanton be punished with a fine or some stringent action.

In conclusion, MPs owe the electorate an apology for their ill-motivated action and somebody must pay for the damages caused.

## Top Lawyers in Sierra Leone File Supreme Court Action Against President Bio's Directive to Change Voting System

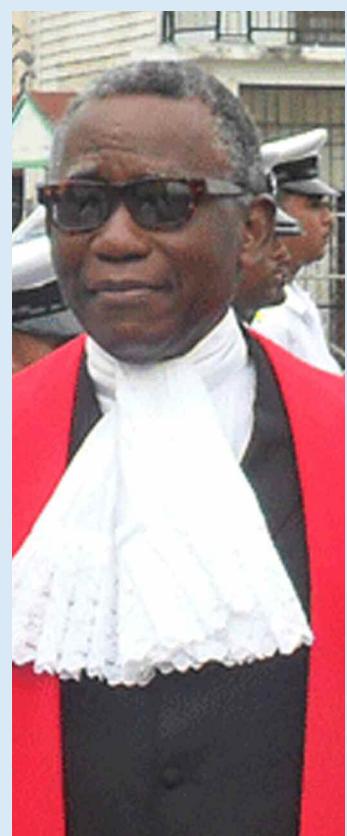
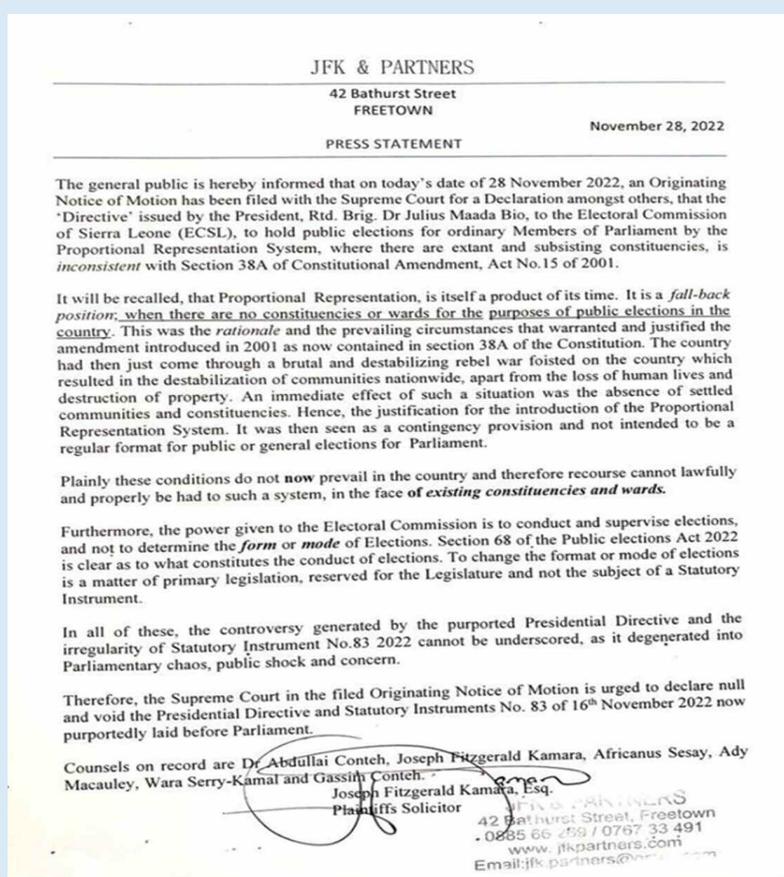
Sierra Leone Telegraph

ry-Kamal and others, are challenging the president's directive.

They say that the president's directive is unconstitutional and have applied to the Supreme Court – the highest court in the land, to examine the president's proposed local council and district block proportional representation regulations laid before parliamentarians last week but yet to become law.

The Proportional Representation instruments laid before MPs last week, attracted much anger among opposition MPs, bringing parliament to a standstill, with some MPs going on a violent rampage which was brought under control when police walked opposition MPs out of parliament.

Writing in a published statement, this is what the lawyers said:



Dr Abdulai Conteh

With barely seven months before general, local, and presidential elections are held in Sierra Leone, President Bio's last-minute bid to change the country's voting system from the constituency first past the post to district block proportional representation, has tonight been dealt a massive blow by some of the most experienced lawyers in the country.

Four of the country's best lawyers – Dr Abdulai Conteh who is a former Attorney General of Belize, Joseph Fitzgerald Kamara – former Attorney General of Sierra Leone, Ady Macauley – former Head of the country's Anti-Corruption Commission and a seasoned Barrister, Lawyer Wara Ser-

## Trade and Industry

# 10 Key Points that Reaffirm African Leaders Commitment to Industrialization and Economic Diversification

By AU

**W**ith increasingly growing concern over the slow progress in the implementation of the Industrial Development Decades for Africa (IDDA) I, II and III; the Strategy for the Implementation of the Action Plan for Accelerated Industrial development of Africa (AIDA); and other continental strategies and programmes relevant to industrialization, structural transformation and development towards the achievement of the African Union Agenda 2063, African leaders have committed to far-reaching and firm decisions to accelerate industrialization, economic diversification and trade on the conti-



ment, with full ownership by the citizens.

The leaders reaffirmed their determination to ensure that Africa's industrialization and economic diversification is financed in a predictable manner and with the urgency of identifying and addressing the impediments to productivity and growth through infrastructural development, energy, access to finance, digitalization, innovation, and skills development to achieving economic diversification.

Here is a highlight of the key points of commitment at the just concluded African Union Extraordinary Summit on Industrialization and Economic Diversification, and the Extraordinary session on the African Continental Free Trade Area convened in Niamey, Niger on the 25th of November 2022.

**1.** To accelerate a commodity-based industrialization as an engine of growth, productive jobs and economic diversification through a regional value chains on the continent's natural resources endowments, with priorities on health and pharmaceutical, automotive, minerals beneficiation, food and nutrition and apparels of cotton industries in order to reduce the continent's external dependency. In this regard, the African Union Commission will now draft a report with clear recommendations on strengthening regional value chains.

**2.** To increase investments in infrastructure and energy with the support of financial institutions and partners to reduce production costs, and boost the competitiveness of the African economies.

**3.** To enhance domestic resource mobilization to ensure sustainable financing on Africa's industrialization, and allocate a minimum of 5 - 10% of the national budget dedicated to the industrial development.

**4.** To develop sustainable Special Economic Zones and Industrial Parks as well as work with and support existing ones in member states as a means to overcoming existing industrial infrastructure constraints, and become hubs for regional value chain integration.

**5.** To ensure inclusive and sustainable industrialization, the Heads of State and Government and other stakeholders will have regular dialogue with the private sector in order to scale up high level engagement on industrialization. The African Union Commission in collaboration with other institutions will strengthen support to Member States in creating an enabling business environment for private sector to thrive.

**6.** The leaders endorsed the African Union Small and Medium Strategy. Relatedly, the African Union Commission is tasked with establishing and operationalising the Africa Enterprise Network. The African Union Commission will also work with the African Regional Standards Organization (ARSO) and the Pan-African Quality Infrastructure (PAQI) to expedite the finalization of the Made in Africa Standards and Guidelines.

**7.** The leaders have committed to reserve a minimum of 10% of public procurement to local enterprises, to strengthen the private sector development and industrialization;

**8.** At the Summit, the leaders agreed to establish, at the national levels, programmes for industrial linkages between the educational system and the labour market, aimed at promoting competitiveness of the private sector through development of soft and hard skills necessary for industrialization in particular in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); technical and vocational education and Training (TVET), and robotics and artificial Intelligence. Relatedly,

the African Union Commission and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) will prepare a feasibility study on the establishment of an African Manufacturing Institute to support Member States and the private sector in the development of modern manufacturing skills and fostering innovation in the manufacturing sector that will accompany the ongoing structural economic transformation in Africa.

**9.** H.E Mohamed Bazoum, President of the Republic of Niger, was appointed the African Union Champion on Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization and Productive Transformation, to provide political leadership and awareness, and ensure a follow-up on the progress regarding the industrial development on the continent in order to achieve Africa's transformation under Agenda 2063. The African Union Commission will set-up an Inter-Institutional Coordination Mechanism to provide technical assistance to the AU Champion.

**10.** With prevailing exceptional circumstances that justify the extension of the TRIPS Agreement to cover therapeutics and diagnostics for a comprehensive response for COVID-19, and to diversify production, the Heads of State called on all WTO Members to support the extension of the TRIPS waiver to cover the production and supply of COVID-19 diagnostics and therapeutics no later than 17 December 2022. Africa accounts for less than 5% of global production of all medical products, exposing the continent to vulnerabilities and fragility during pandemics.

Working with development partners, the African Union will also produce and disseminate amongst Member States, an annual Africa's Industrial Development Report based on an African Industrial Development Index, and fast-track the establishment of the African Industrial Observatory.

The leaders called on the African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat to support the implementation of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) under the Guided Trade Initiative in collaboration with the African Civil Aviation Commission, African airlines and other relevant stakeholders. Further, the Secretariat is expected to fast-track the implementation of a work programme related to the Annexes for Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) specifically in the areas of standards harmonization.



**The leaders reaffirmed their determination to ensure that Africa's industrialization and economic diversification is financed in a predictable manner and with the urgency of identifying and addressing the impediments to productivity and growth through infrastructural development, energy, access to finance, digitalization, innovation, and skills development to achieving economic diversification.**

# ONE IDEA



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