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Local News

By Mohamed Massaquoi in Kenema

Musa Tarawallie VP Ambition: Mandingos Clash In Kenema, 8 Arrested

Report from the Kenema Police Station says one Joseph Gbengba, who was reportedly sent by the Minister of Internal Affairs to organize and sell his 2012 vice presidential ambition to Mandingos in Kenema, and seven other Mandingos, have been arrested following a clash that erupted after a brief meeting. It was reported that Joseph invited all the dif-

ferent Mingo groups in Kenema to the Sport Club in Kenema on Saturday to unite them ahead of the proposed visit of Tarawallie to that part of the country. The meeting apparently ended in a big disagreement in which some of the people physically attacked each other. One of the accused persons, Ibrahim Sawanneh, informed Concord Times shortly after making his statement at the Kenema Po-

lice Station that he was not part of the arrangement but was informed by Gbengba that he was officially sent by Musa Tarawallie to organize the meeting. "I was not at the meeting but I later went there when I was informed that there was a big fight among the Mingo ethnic group in the township," he said. In a snap interview along Hangha Road, Resident Minister (East) William Juana Smith

said he was informed about the development but could not make further comment because the matter is under police investigation. Meanwhile, spokesman for South Eastern Alliance for President Ernest Koroma who also doubles as Deputy Government Spokesman, Sylvester Swarray, denied the allegation that the meeting was held in the name of Musa Tarawallie. "I have been informed about the development

but Musa is not in country at the moment and I am not aware of any meeting of that nature," he concluded. While awaiting outcome of police investigation, it would be recalled that at least 35 troublemakers were arrested by the police following clashes between members of the Fullah and Mingo ethnic groups shortly after the elections in Guinea over a year ago. Over a thousand residents of Kenema and its

environs were said to have trooped to some of the major streets in the township to express their views on the outcome of the presidential run-off when riot broke out mainly between members of the Fullah and Mingo ethnic groups that left scores of people injured and property destroyed. Some political analysts have speculated that if the latest conflict in Kenema is not resolved quickly, it may degenerate into a big political issue that would spread beyond Kenema district.

Germany Provides €.5m Nutritional Support In Sierra Leone

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has donated 500,000 to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) for nutrition assistance to pregnant and nursing women and undernourished children in Sierra Leone. This contribution of the Government of Germany complements the Government of Sierra Leone's health care

initiatives to improve nutrition in pregnant and lactating mothers leading to higher infant birth weight, improved breastfeeding for children, and better nutrition during the first 1000 days of a child's life. The donation will enable WFP to purchase Supercereal, a specially formulated nutritious food fortified with vitamin and mineral micronutrients for

supplementary feeding to malnourished pregnant women, nursing mothers, and their young children. "Nutritional support to vulnerable women and children is an essential component of basic health care, which greatly contributes to saving lives and improved infant nutrition said WFP Sierra Leone Country Representative, William Hart.

Sexual Violence: More Needs to be Done In Sierra Leone -UN Rep

By Ibrahim Tarawallie

United Nations Secretary-General Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict yesterday said in Freetown

information on what has been done," she noted. She opined that preventing sexual violence was particularly important as the country is drawing closer to elections, a

Leone and the international community on this issue. The UN Special Representative also stated that the past must not be ignored or survivors of the

Market Women Vow to Indict Govts If...

The Secretary General of the Sierra Leone Market Women's Association, Madam Marie Bob-Kandeh has said that market women will hold successive governments accountable should they fail to adhere to the recommendations that will come out of the Sierra Leone Conference on Development and Transformation slated for December 12 to 14 this year at the Miatta Conference Centre. She was speaking at an exclusively all market women's consultative forum with the Gender Specialist at the Secretariat, Naasu Fofanah who brought together representatives from the various markets in the capital, Freetown in a bid to get their inputs on what role the market women should play as we plan for the next 25-50 years. "They will be held accountable if governments fail to adhere to what

will be written as recommendations from the Conference," she said and added, "we have to make contributions to Sierra Leone's development or else we will be held responsible." Madam Marie Vandy, the President of the Market Women's Association said though they are the marginalized ones in society, this will not deter them in constructively engaging with the Secretariat to ensuring that the market women play a key role in planning for the development of Sierra Leone. She vowed that as the country prepares a development roadmap for the next 25-50 years, they will take a lead role in ensuring that this country is developed and, "our generations yet unborn are well catered for." The President said the effort to plan for Sierra Leone should not be left in the hands of President Koroma and his APC gov-

ernment alone but it should be seen as a national effort that will outlive succeeding governments. The market women were unanimous in stating that they will like to see a Sierra Leone where "our natural resources are well managed, education is given a priority, there is free health care for all, factories are constructed to provide job opportunities for Sierra Leoneans, there is abundance foreign exchange and the country is food sufficient among others." They pledged to put in writing a position paper that will be presented to the Secretariat as part of their input to the Conference. The Conference in December is about reviewing the whole spectrum of Sierra Leone's development as a nation since independence and determining where we want to be in the next 25-50 years and how best to get there without the pitfalls of the past.



Margot Wallström, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict

that more needs to be done to support survivors of the violence, both in terms of access to justice, services and helping them reintegrate into the society. Margot Wallström who was the country as part of her official visit to West Africa to better understand the sexual violence situation told journalists that she was impressed by what she saw, noting that Sierra Leone is on the right path. "I was impressed with what I saw. The country is in the right path, but more needs to be done in reintegrating victims of sexual violence into the society and also justice and services. My visit is to better understand the situation and get infor-

period during which sexual violence is often used against political opponents, especially in post-conflict situations. "I call on all people in positions of influence in Sierra Leone to speak up against the use of sexual violence as a tool of political intimidation and to do their utmost to put in place measures to prevent sexual violence from being employed to this effect," she said. Wallström noted that she will continue to monitor the situation and also engage the government, the UN country team, civil society in Sierra

Leone and the international community on this issue. The UN Special Representative also stated that the past must not be ignored or survivors of the violence forgotten. She called for the Family Support Units FSUs of the Police should be adequately equipped to handle sexual violence cases. While in Sierra Leone, Ms Wallström held meetings with the UN country team, the FSU of the police, the Chief Justice, ERSJ, victims of sexual violence among others. She also visited the reparation project of victims of sexual violence in Makeni. The office of the special representative on sexual violence in conflict was created in April 2010.

HIV/AIDS is real, go for the TEST now!

Statement by Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict Margot Wallström

NEED TO PREVENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE AS A TOOL OF POLITICAL INTIMIDATION IN RUN-UP TO ELECTIONS IN SIERRA LEONE

As part of an official visit to West Africa, I am currently in Sierra Leone – a post-conflict country – to gather a better understanding of how sexual violence during the war has influenced the society after the guns have fallen silent.

During my visit, I have held discussions with the United Nations Country Team, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), caregivers, survivors of sexual violence, and the Family Support Unit of the Sierra Leone Police Force. I have also met with the Solicitor General, the Chief Justice, the Minister and Deputy Minister of Gender Affairs, and the Executive Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Schulenburg. Yesterday I travelled to Makeni, where I visited a reparation project for victims of sexual violence, and engaged with various interlocutors dealing with the issue.

I understand that the country as a whole, including the Government of Sierra Leone, wants to look to the future, instead of dwelling on the past. This is comprehensible. But we must not ignore the past or forget the survivors of sexual violence. Only a country thoroughly addressing the wrongdoings of

the past can build a solid foundation for a successful and sustainable future. More needs to be done to support these survivors, both in terms of access to justice, services and to help them reintegrate into society. Additional resources are also required to strengthen the capacity of the judicial system in order to address the issue of sexual violence.

Preventing sexual violence is particularly important as Sierra Leone is drawing closer to elections, a period during which sexual violence is often used against political opponents, especially in post-conflict situations. I call on all people in positions of influence in Sierra Leone to speak up against the use of sexual violence as a tool of political intimidation and to do their utmost to put in place measures to prevent sexual violence from being employed to this effect.

I will continue to monitor the situation and to engage with the Government, the UN Country Team, civil society in Sierra Leone and the international community on this issue.

'69% OF CITIZENS LACK ADEQUATE TOILET'

By Sulaiman Bah

As Sierra Leoneans join the global world to mark this year's world toilet day, the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Network (WASH-Net), simultaneously celebrated the occasion with the theme Crisis Talks.

Speaking at the occasion which took place at their Campbell Street office, the Acting Chairman, Saa Matthias Bendu of the network said his organization is in solidarity with the 2.6 billion people who practice open defecation. He referred to it as a crisis talk aimed at acknowledging the life saving power of the toilet and called on stakeholders to address the unhealthy health hazard. He said it is unimaginable to think of a life without a toilet in a home, work place, or public toilet. He maintained that in Sierra Leone the issue has been taken for granted but added that it is a deadly reality for the 5 million people. He said about 69% of citizens

do not have access to adequate sanitation, 49% of which still practice open defecation. He said such a practice like urinating in rivers leads to disease such as acute diarrhoea, dysentery and cholera. He said others have resorted to roadsides, gutters, buckets, plastic bags, open field and street as toilets. He said the crisis talk about toilet is a taboo that warrants the attention it deserves, which he said could eventually lead to death. He maintained that every one in the country should have the right to access toilet facilities anytime and anywhere, adding that no one should die of not having a toilet. He therefore urged the government and other political parties to put premium on the need for

people to have adequate sanitation in their various environments. Mr. Bendu furthered that toilet brings dignity, privacy and safety for girls, women and family members during menstruation and defecation. For many living in slums, he said life with toilet means defecating in the open or sharing an unhygienic hanging latrine with neighbors like plastic bags that can be carried away by rains.

Standard Chartered Targets

From Front Page

Attitudinal and Behavioural Change Secretariat, urged boys to change their attitude towards their parents and focus on education which according to him is the only best thing that will make them succeed in life.

He asked them to copy positive male role models in society who have contributed to the socio-economic development spectrum of the country, and not copy bad examples that will affect their fruitful destiny.

Dr Thomas said the theme 'Giving Boys The Best Possible Start In Life' is important for boys because it will help them refrain from drugs taking and toxic drinking for sustainable health and psychological thinking.

He said to develop to manhood it goes with stages so they must focus on education first and not running after young girls as this could destroy their future ambition.

Standard Chartered Chief Information Officer, Criminda Cole said as the world continues to focus on gender empowerment the young must be pioneers of gender equality and inclusion across the world market.

She maintained that the reason for the symposium was for the next generation of men in Sierra Leone to contribute to the development of the country through better choices.

She encouraged them to be responsible citizens in the country as they have roles to play in its development.

African Statistics Day Observed

From Front Page

King Koroma, said this year's theme 'Keeping Accounts To Improve Africa's Present for a Brighter Future' was specifically chosen to highlight the importance of the system of national accounts in the development of a nation.

The celebration, he furthered, takes place in all African countries and that Sierra Leone this time decided to mark its own in Moyamba in recognition of the decentralization process in the country.

Mr Koroma explained that in 2011, Statistics Sierra Leone has carried out series of activities in accordance with the 2011 Road Map conceived within the framework of its strategic plan.

He disclosed that in 2012, the management of Statistics Sierra Leone will focus on planning for the next round of National Population and Housing Census with the cartographic work set to commence in the second half of next year.

According to him, the next round of census will be conducted in December 2014 using improved technology, while the Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) will be devolved from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development to Statistics Sierra Leone.

Mr Koroma frowned on the proliferation of institutions collecting statistical data in the country in contravention of the Statistics Act 2002 and stressed the need to construct a modern building for Statistics Sierra Leone with IT sophistication for a nationwide integrated system.

In his keynote address, the Deputy Minister of Finance and Economic Development Alhaji Foday Mansaray commended Statistics Sierra Leone for commemorating the day.

He said his ministry would ensure that Statistics Sierra Leone construct a modern building that would be of the same standard as other international statistics offices for the purpose of effective service delivery.

SLPP Springs Back To Life

From Front Page

They said their spirit had been energized by the fact that the weak link in their midst had given way to very committed people that are determined to take the party to higher heights.

Other key stakeholders at the meeting included erstwhile presidential affairs minister Dr. Sheku Sesay and Ambassador Foday Dabo.

Meanwhile, the appointment of Dr. Kadi Sesay as running mate to Rtd. Brig. Julius Maada Bio continues to be welcome and applauded in the Northern Province where she hails from.

An interview done by SLPP Northern Region Chairman Dr. Alfred Bobson Sesay with Universal Radio on Dr. Kadi Sesay's appointment has been generating a lot of goodwill in the region.

The interview has been aired by radio stations in Port Loko and Tonkolili district from where reactions have been very positive, according to Dr. Alfred Bobson Sesay.

NEWS

Inspirational Quotes

"There go the people. I must follow them for I am their leader."
Alexandre Ledra-Rollin

3rd Batch of Military personnel jets in today from Darfur

By Alhaji M. Kamara

The final batch of Military personnel on peace keeping mission in Darfur will jet in today after six months operations.

According to Major Ken Jabbie, Director of Communications Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF), 65 personnel arrived past Saturday at the Lungi International Airport from Darfur, and a handful arrived on Sunday with the final batch expected today.

Family members and well wishers were standing behind the barricaded areas patiently waiting to receive their relatives from Darfur.

The incoming peace keepers from Darfur celebrated with the ones that were waiting for their departure to Darfur as they were all dressed in their desert combat.

Lieutenant Colonel Albert Y. Kargbo Director of Peace Keeping at Ministry of Defence, welcomed and congratulated the personnel for performing their functions

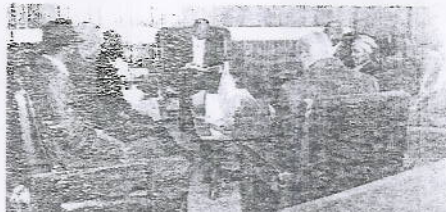
Examinations of UBA & Access Bank Completed

By Winston Ojukutu-Macaulley Jnr

The central Bank of Sierra Leone (BSL) and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) have completed a joint examination of United Bank of Africa (UBA) and Access Bank SL Ltd.

The six man supervisory team from the college of Banking Supervision of the West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ) conducted the examinations to assess the operations of both banks in a bid to identify risks and challenges confronting the operations of both banks.

On completion of their examination, the six man team met with the Governor of the Bank of Sierra Leone Sheku Sambadeen Sesay and submitted their report which the Governor said he found "very useful and insightful." The team conducted a similar exercise last August where they examined Skye Bank SL Ltd and



Bank of Sierra Leone Governor Sheku Sambadeen Sesay meeting with the Supervisory Team

Guaranty Trust Bank SL Ltd.

Expressing his satisfaction over the examination, Governor Sesay assured the team that the

successfully and returning home on time.

"You have contributed towards global peace as other United Nations member states did to us some years ago," he added. Corporal Unisa Kanu, one of the peace keepers from Darfur who was also part of the communication team during their operation, disclosed that Darfur is a harsh country as compared to the climate here but as a soldier they were able to overcome the situation. He stated that the Sudanese people are not accommodating, and they found it very difficult to communicate the message of peace to them, but with time the Sudanese were able to understand the need for peace messages.

He advised his comrades that they should be very careful in discharging their duties as they will find it very difficult to distinguish between civilians and rebels as everyone carries a weapon. He added that they should be focused and aggressive as the people are unpredictable.

preliminary results threw significant fresh lights on a number of issues. The study he said also provided a unique opportunity for the sharing of the country specific experiences between the Bank of Sierra Leone and the Central Bank of Nigeria.

The examination was carried out to facilitate the exchange of information, views and assessments among the two Central Banks in order to allow for a more efficient and effective consolidation of policy decision. It is expected that from the examinations, the team will help develop a common understanding of the risk profile of the banks as well as coordinate, review and assess risks to establish supervisory plans and confront any cross border challenges that will be deduced.

UN Special envoy says treat SGBV with "utmost seriousness it deserves"



Ms. Wallstrom addressing Journalists at Hotel Cabenda

By Poindexter Sama

The United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Margot Wallstrom in her maiden Press Briefing on her arrival in Sierra Leone has warned all in the country that "Gender based violence should be treated with the utmost seriousness it deserves" adding that we should "put the past behind and look to what the future holds".

Ms. Wallstrom made the remark in compliment of the gains the country has acquired so far in dealing with the prevailing issues on sexual and gender-based violence since the end of the protracted civil war.

Looking smart and dressed in a grey outfit at UN's Hotel Cabenda conference room, Wallstrom said that her visit to Sierra Leone is part of her mandate in looking at post-conflict societies, particularly countries that have experienced civil wars amidst alarming cases of sexual and gender-based violence during those wars.

The Swedish national, who has spent part of her life agitating for the rights and needs of women, disclosed that she has held consultation with the government and concerned institutions, looking at what they have done so far in ensuring the dignity of women who have been victims of male chauvinism.

"Gender based violence should be treated with the utmost seriousness it deserves" she said, urging women to play

active role in preventing sexual based violence as it is happening in Rwanda, Kenya etc., more especially as the country approaches general elections.

In a very concrete statement, the SRSG explained that the United Nations is quite attentive on issues dealing with gender based violence as enshrined in Resolutions 1325 and 1820, and recently 1888 and 1960 respectively.

Madam Wallstrom reiterated that sexual violence during conflict is a scourge affecting millions, of which girls are also affected "it is often a conscious strategy deployed by armed groups to humiliate opponents, destroy individuals and the very fabric of society" she asserted.

She pointed out that bearing in mind the brutality women folks faced in the eleven year conflict, her office, inter-alia, sought to redress and claim women's rights, increase recognition of rape as a tactic and consequence of war

through awareness-raising activities at international and country levels through sustaining media attention.

With her experience in dealing with issues pertaining to women emancipation, Wallstrom viewed that sexual violence in conflict is under-reported and under-addressed; stigmas associated with rape prevent survivors from coming forward to report these crimes, and most unfortunately, many countries do not have laws that can be used to prosecute perpetrators and mechanisms that can protect survivors.

Ms. Wallstrom, an author and co-founder of outstanding women organizations, has served as Chair of the Inter-agency Network, UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, Minister in the Swedish Government, Environment Commissioner and Vice-President of the European Commission.

Mother abandons baby for Le 200,000

By Emmanuella Kallon

The whereabouts of Memunatu Lansana mother of a one and a half year old baby girl who obtained goods worth two hundred thousand Leones (Le200,000) and left her baby behind some two weeks ago is still unknown.

A trader, Kadiatu Lansana who resides at Kroo Bay back of FAWE School and owner of the goods is now struggling to take care of the baby and her own two children.

She said the woman was suffering with the child so she gave her the goods to sell two weeks ago so she could manage her life, but she has since not heard from her.



The child and Kadiatu Lansana

Kadiatu Lansana sells Doughnuts along Garrison Street adjacent Lido Hotel and she has to take the baby-girl along everyday.

"She is a quiet baby but she does not like sweet things and prefers only rice," Kadiatu Lansana said as she smiled at the baby sitting in front of her.

She said she however finds it difficult to take care of the baby which has not yet started walking along with her own two children. She lamented that the baby's mother does not want to repay her money.

The one year six months old child was looking very unhealthy as she sat on the floor with bare feet, wearing pink pants and multi-coloured blouse.