



DE BARRAY

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- HIGHLIGHT OF CRITICAL NATIONAL CHALLENGES -

Building tolerance and pluralism in party politics

Sierra Leone's ruling and opposition political parties on September 4 ended two separate elections in the north of the country to come up with candidates for the forthcoming 2007 presidential and parliamentary elections. The incumbent Vice President Solomon Ekuma Berewa was elected the ruling party standard bearer, and on the part of the opposition party, Earnest Bai Koroma swept all the votes following a boycott by his party's key challengers.

The UNDP Resident Representative, Victor Angelo, in a development partnership meeting in Freetown on September 8 commended the peaceful nature of both elections held about the same time "without any violent incident".

Reactions from losers of both the ruling and opposition parties have been mixed. The lead ruling party loser, Charles Margai, has been holding grassroots consultations on his next move, which seems to be either 'accepting to join Solomon Berewa' or 'establishing a new political party'. The lead opposition party loser, Eddie Turay has, according to local newspapers, vowed to remain within the All Peoples Party (APC) to continue challenging the leadership of Earnest Bai Koroma through legal means. It is difficult to predict the end results of these developments. But what is glaring is that post-war politics in Sierra Leone is shifting dramatically, though not perfectly, from intimidative violence to pluralistic tolerance ☐

Mobilizing resources for the Poverty Reduction Strategy

The British Department for International Development (DFID) said in a partnership meeting in Freetown on September 8 that Sierra Leone's Consultative Group (CG) conference, postponed last June to mobilize resources for the implementation of the country's poverty reduction strategy, would be held in November in London instead of in Paris as previously planned.

Among the key issues discussed in the partnership meeting was the establishment of a fund to support the country's poverty reduction strategy, but decisions were still to be made before the CG on how the fund would be set up and managed.

It was agreed that youth unemployment be tabled for the CG as a key policy concern. But in view of the need to for better understanding of the issue, the need was expressed to distinguish between short, medium and long term interventions. The meeting was informed that analytic exercises have been initiated by the World Bank, including an extensive review of youth issues for the 2007 World Development Report and an Economic Sector Work on youth employment. But for meeting short-term concerns, the meeting agreed that an emergency Youth Fund is necessary to deal with deep unemployment among the most vulnerable youth groups. Another challenge to be tabled for the CG is the country's public service capacity to implement its poverty reduction strategy, and this has to do mainly with the capacity to motivate and retain public servants and attract trained brains in the diaspora ☐

Ensuring regional peace and political stability

Representatives of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the UN on 19 September 2005 briefed the 10th Working Session of the International Contact Group on the Mano River Basin on developments in the Mano River sub region.

The Contact Group welcomed the progress made in preparations for the October presidential and legislative elections in Liberia and called for peaceful campaigning and respect for the election results, hoping for more assistance and lifting of sanctions.

The Group expressed concern about the situation in Côte d'Ivoire and urged both parties to the Linas-Marcoussis and the Accra III Agreements and Pretoria Declaration to implement their undertakings without further delay.

The signing in August 2005 by the President of Guinea of the decree on private radio and TV stations was welcomed by the Group, encouraging implementation of other reform undertakings, including the creation of an independent electoral commission.

The Group congratulated Guinea-Bissau on the conduct of transparent, free and fair elections on July 4.

Also, the group expressed satisfaction over the decision to convene the Consultative Group Conference on Sierra Leone in London in November ☐



'De Barray' is a typical gathering point in Sierra Leone where, mostly, critical issues are discussed to inform decisions.

To know more about the World Bank activity in Sierra Leone visit www.worldbank.org/sierraleone

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FROM THE WORLD BANK'S GLOBAL PRESS ARCHIVE

Call for a coordinated battle against malaria

On September 8 2005, on the eve of an international summit on Malaria, the World Bank issued a Press Release from Paris which called for a dramatic increase in the supply of insecticide-treated bed-nets to poor families and for affordable access to new anti-malarial drugs as well as improved monitoring of results as part of a coordinated international campaign to help control a disease that kills more than a million people each year and causes millions more to become sick. The World Bank President, Paul Wolfowitz, said the Paris conference is proof that, in just a matter of months after the Group of Eight Summit in Gleneagles, the international community is determined to help African countries gain the upper hand against a disease that mostly strikes children under the age of five.

Based on his recent travels in Africa and South Asia, where he said he had been struck by the reported progress that countries such as Eritrea, Madagascar, and India are making in controlling malaria, Wolfowitz says that evidence clearly showed that the mosquito-borne disease is completely preventable and treatable. In 1998, the World Bank and its international partners – World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the UN Development Programme – announced a "Roll Back Malaria" initiative intended to cut malaria rates by half in 12 years.

Africa experiences 85% of the World's deaths from malaria and the most severe forms of malaria cause organ failure, delirium, impaired consciousness and generalized convulsions, followed by persistent coma and death.

The economic burden of Malaria in Africa is about US\$12 billion annually, slowing economic growth by about 1.3% per year. The disease contributes not only to lost life and productivity but also hampers children's education and social development through both absenteeism and neurological disabilities associated with cerebral malaria. Malaria erodes growth, for example, when adults, debilitated by the disease, cannot work, and lose earnings

Helping Africa achieve development results

On September 12 2005, the World Bank issued a Press Release from Washington which outlines its strategy – the Africa Action Plan (AAP) - to support African countries in their efforts to increase growth, tackle poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The AAP builds on commitments by the international community to mobilize additional resources for Africa's development and it responds to commitments made by the G8 and other partners, prior to and at Gleneagles, by setting out clear and concrete actions intended to ensure that African countries, the World Bank Group and the development community increasingly focus on achieving **measurable outcomes**.

Broadly, the plan establishes a framework for using the resources available for 2006-2008 to **deliver results** in the areas of economic growth, human development and poverty reduction; and for using increases in assistance beyond current levels **in a way that multiplies impact**. Under the plan, African countries, supported by their development partners, will design strategies to accelerate economic growth and create the opportunity for more people, particularly poor people and women, to participate in and benefit from that growth. The Africa Action Plan focuses particularly on three broad areas:

- *Building capable states and improving governance;*
- *Strengthening the drivers of growth—such as building a vibrant African private sector, expanding exports, increasing investment in infrastructure, making agriculture more productive; and investing in the assets of poor people and the disadvantaged, including women, by furthering their education, health and access to economic opportunity;*
- *Strengthening the impact of partnerships among governments, donor countries and development agencies*

During the last two decades, the number of poor in Africa has doubled from 150 to 300 million, more than 40% of the region's population yet average scores from the institutional assessment in the continent have been rising for the past 10 years

Asking for where the wealth of nations is

On September 13 2005, the World Bank issued a Press Release from New York which shows that net savings per person are negative in the world's impoverished countries, referring to a new World Bank publication, ***Where is the Wealth of Nations?***, launched on the eve of the 2005 U.N. World Summit. Current indicators used to guide development decisions – national accounts figures, such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP) – ignore depletion of resources and damage to the environment. In the Conference Edition of *Where is the Wealth of Nations?*, the World Bank offers new estimates of total wealth, including produced capital, natural resources, and the value of human capabilities, which show that many of the poorest countries in the world are not on a sustainable path.

The publication offers a ranking of countries according to total wealth, with tables highlighting the 10 wealthiest and the 10 poorest countries (see Annex). Switzerland heads the list of the top-ten performers, the other nine being European countries, the United States, and Japan. Sub-Saharan Africa dominates the bottom-10 list, with Ethiopia having the lowest total wealth.

The companion booklet, *Ensuring Environmental Sustainability*, however, highlights that there are important exceptions – *Mauritania* has improved its development prospects through better management of fishery resources, while *Botswana* has successfully used diamond resources to finance the schooling, health care and infrastructure. According to *Where is the Wealth of Nations?*, natural wealth – the value of minerals, energy, forests, cropland, pastureland, and protected areas – is actually a much higher share of total wealth in low-income countries than produced capital, 26 percent compared with 16 percent. Measuring, as this publication does, the change in total wealth and in natural wealth can contribute to a comprehensive measure of whether a development path is in the long run sustainable or not





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FEATURING SPECIAL GLOBAL EVENTS OF THE MONTH

UNITED NATIONS WORLD SUBMIT

Speech by Sierra Leone President, Ahmad Tejan Kabbah



In his recent address to the UN General Assembly, the Sierra Leone President, Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, urged nations of the world not allow the controversies of recent years to drown the positive impact the UN system has made in the lives of millions of people across the world.

"Let us think about the tremendous work of UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, ILO, UNHCR, OCHA, FAO and other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system. This sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations is therefore a time to celebrate all that the United Nations has achieved and is trying to achieve."

One such achievement, he said, is in the area of peacekeeping. In three months' time the people of Sierra Leone will be saying goodbye to UNAMSIL, the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Sierra Leone, which he referred to as success story that world can learn from.

The United Nations, he noted, should remain the centre for mobilizing and harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of common global objectives, like the MDGs. The Organization belongs to all and it operates in the larger interest of all its members.

Let this sixtieth anniversary be a time for recommitment to the principles and purposes of the Charter; a time for renewed determination to build on the success of this great Organization.

It is also a time to note that the geopolitics of today demand that Africa's role in the UN organs including the Bretton Woods Institutions should be reconsidered. This question is presently engaging the full attention of African leaders □

WORLD BANK- IMF ANNUAL MEETINGS

Opening Press Briefing by World Bank President, Paul Wolfowitz



In his opening press conference to commence the World Bank and IMF Annual Meeting in September 2005, President Paul Wolfowitz reaffirmed that Africa is a development priority and pointed to the Bank's [Africa Action Plan](#) as a strategy for using effectively the resources available for development in Africa.

The difference with this plan, he said, is that "it focuses on tangible impact and measurable results, with more than 20 concrete actions."

Mr. Wolfowitz noted the Africa Action Plan emphasizes the broad areas of governance and of economic growth, while addressing critical human development issues: "It also gets down to specifics on supporting free primary school education, funding for much-needed infrastructure, combating HIV/AIDS and malaria, and doing more to support women, who play such a crucial role in achieving development goals but who are too often ignored by development planners." Developing countries had recently made impressive commitments to deliver better performance, while developed nations had made similarly impressive commitments to deliver more aid - at the G8 meeting in Gleneagles and also at the World Summit in New York.

"It's been a year of momentum – with the potential I think to be a turning point," Wolfowitz said. "Our task now is to translate the promises and plans into actions and results – for the world's poor, and not only in the poorest countries but also in some of the successful developing countries," he said.

Wolfowitz said it was now time to stand accountable and deliver. "There's an enormous responsibility on the entire development community, including the World Bank Group to help deliver those results and it starts with measuring and evaluating what we are doing," Wolfowitz said □





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SUMMARY OF KEY COUNTRY EVENTS OF THE MONTH

War victims threaten court action for reparations

The association of amputated and severely wounded victims of the civil war in Sierra Leone threatened on September 1 international court action against the government for what they refer to as its failure to provide them reparation benefits. It says the government has reneged on a recent understanding which provides for reparation of \$3,000 per war victim to facilitate their housing and medical care.

UNIOSL replaces UNAMSIL

The UN Security Council approved on September 2 the establishment of the UN Integrated Office for Sierra Leone (UNIOSL), saying it was crucial to prevent a relapse into conflict after the last peacekeepers leave at the end of the year. Human rights and government accountability will top the list of priorities for the new UN assistance mission.

Finance Minister replaced

On September 6, Government announced the replacement of Finance Minister, Joseph B. Dauda, and 2 other ministers in the first cabinet reshuffle since the second election of President Kabbah. This followed the ruling party delegate conference which ended in the defeat of Mr. Dauda as aspiring presidential challenger of the Vice President, Solomon Berewa. Two other ministers swapped positions.

Hikes in fuel price cause increase in domestic prices

Sierra Leone started feeling on September 17 the effects fuel price hikes across West Africa as dealers transferred costs to commercial vehicles who in turn passed the buck to passengers. Transport owners within Freetown unilaterally increased taxi and bus fares from 600 to 700 leones per "pole" and prices of grain, flour, oil, vegetables and fruits suddenly increased. This coincided with the re-opening of schools when parents spend more money on transportation and with the coming month of Ramadan when the consumption of non-staple food variety across the country usually increases.

SL in MDGs 5th Anniversary Video Conference Debate

Sierra Leone was on September 12th, 13th and 14th among eleven African countries linked in a video conference to the World Bank, UNDP, Genderlinks, Harvard University and Africa Development Bank to discuss progress and setbacks in the achievement of the MDGs after five years since the Millennium Declaration was made by world leaders in September 2000. Scholars and development practitioners shared perspectives that can influence policies on the MDGs in individual countries and global institutions. Notwithstanding criticisms, the UN still maintains its stance on the MDGs because they not only keep the global development spirit high but also maintain a common development benchmarking across the globe.

World Bank begins a study on youth and employment

Development partners agreed in Freetown on September 8 that youth unemployment should be tabled as a key policy concern for the forthcoming Consultative Group (CG) donors' conference on Sierra Leone in November in London.

In view of the need to throw better policy light on the issue, the World Bank announced that it is initiating analytic exercises in the country, which include an extensive review of youth issues for the 2007 World Development Report and an Economic Sector Work on youth employment.

The need to create job opportunities for the large and growing number of young people is currently one of Sierra Leone's main development challenges as reflected in the Sierra Leone PRSP and the World Bank Country Assistance Strategy. The fragile peace situation in the country and its potential implications of a marginalized youth population has elevated the youth unemployment issue to a particularly high level for both the Government of Sierra Leone and the donor community.

In response, the World Bank has committed to produce a study on Youth and Employment over the coming year, with the objective of mapping out short-run and long-run strategies for the Government of Sierra Leone as it grapples with the issue of youth unemployment in an environment of high levels of poverty and slow job growth.

Capacity building to improve retention of public servants

The capacity limitations within the existing civil service for the implementation of the PRSP were highlighted during the development partnership meeting on September 8. It was generally agreed that one of the urgent responses for dealing with this issue was to improve the retention of capacity within the system. The country continues to lose nurses and other health personnel to other countries because of poor conditions of service. The need was also expressed to attract qualified Sierra Leoneans in the diaspora, and it was stressed that the relationship between the establishment secretariat and the implementation mechanism of the PRSP would need to be clarified.

Proposed mechanisms for funding the PRSP

Proposals for the establishment of a "Basket Fund" and/or a "Trust Fund" to support the country's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) were recently discussed during the development partnership meeting on September 8. The meeting was not able to come to a consensus on whether to recommend one of the two proposals or both. It was, however, agreed that the joint Donor/Government task-force that would be established should also look into the issue of funding mechanism and provide appropriate recommendations for the upcoming Consultative Group conference in London in November.

This newsletter seeks to provide public information on the World Bank Group activities in Sierra Leone and it seeks to relay feedback from Sierra Leone on the Bank's global strategies, policies and programs.

