

THE SLNBCC TEAM WISHES YOU

Happy  
King's Day,  
Netherlands!

APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup>

60<sup>TH</sup>  
HAPPY  
Independence  
DAY  
Sierra Leone!

Sierra Leone Covid-19 Status, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Confirmed cases: 4,044
Recovery: 2,993
Death: 79

Source: <https://mohs.gov.sl/>

DEAR READERS,

The entire staff of SLNBCC wishes the people of Sierra Leone a happy 60th Independence Day celebration and the people of the Netherlands a happy Kings day celebration. Lets this day be a day of celebration, reflection and recommitments to reasonable growth. Remember, Covid19 is still in our midst, so lets heed all the necessary precautions to save ourselves and our loved ones and respective nations.

IN THIS ISSUE

- IMF Confident of Africa's Economic Recovery, Albeit Slowed growth.
- EU Delegation to Sierra Leone: Call for Proposals on Agro-Tech Development.
- African Ministers of Air Transport adopt Common
- Position regarding International Travel.
- SLNBCC event Alert (21<sup>st</sup> of May SL Independence and King's day festivity)
- Procurement notices
- How to protect yourself from Covid19



## IMF Confident of Africa's Economic Recovery, Albeit Slowed growth



Sub-Saharan Africa's economies will begin to recover from last year's coronavirus shock and grow again this year. But a predicted 3.4 percent growth rate will fall behind that of the rest of the world, says the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In its six-monthly economic outlook for the region, published early this month, the agency attributes its expectation of a slow recovery to a slow delivery of vaccines to Africa and the lack of resources to stimulate economies.

"Many advanced economies have secured enough vaccine doses to cover their own populations many times over and are looking to the second half of the year with a renewed sense of hope," the IMF says. "In Africa, however, with limited purchasing power and few options, many countries will be struggling to simply vaccinate their essential frontline workers this year, and few will achieve widespread availability before 2023."

Similarly, the agency says advanced economies are being helped to recover from the coronavirus pandemic by "trillions in fiscal stimulus and continued accommodation by central banks". But this is not an option in sub-Saharan Africa: "If anything, most entered the second wave [of the pandemic] with depleted fiscal and monetary buffers." Increased exports, higher commodity prices and a recovery in private consumption and investment are expected to reverse last year's average contraction in the region's economies of 1.9 percent.

"However, per capita output is not expected to return to 2019 levels until after 2022 – in many countries, per capita incomes will not return to pre-crisis levels before 2025," the IMF predicts. It adds that the region's low-income countries will need U.S. \$245 billion between 2021 and 2025 to help recover lost ground, while the whole of sub-Saharan Africa will need \$425 billion. Looking back over the last year, the director of the IMF's African Department Abebe Aemro Selassie said that although the contraction was not as bad as had been feared, 2020 was still the worst on record.

"The pandemic has had a devastating impact on the region's economy," he said. "The number of extreme poor in sub-Saharan Africa is projected to have increased by more than 32 million. The 'learning loss' has been enormous, with students missing 67 days of instruction, more than four times the level in advanced economies."

Calling for more to be done to help defeat the virus in Africa, Selassie said in most countries the cost of vaccinating 60% of the population would need an increase in health spending of 50%. "For the international community, ensuring vaccine coverage for sub-Saharan Africa is a global public good. Restrictions on the dissemination of vaccines or medical equipment should be avoided, multilateral facilities such as Covax should be fully funded, and excess doses in wealthy countries should be redistributed quickly."

The IMF nevertheless strikes a note of optimism in promoting previous prescriptions for future growth. "Despite scarring from the crisis," the executive summary of the IMF outlook says, "sub-Saharan Africa's potential is still undeniable, and the need for bold and transformative reforms is more urgent than ever – these include revenue mobilization, digitalization, trade integration, competition, transparency and governance, and climate-change mitigation." Click to Read the executive summary.

Source: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202104160038.html>



## EU Delegation to Sierra Leone: Call for Proposals on Agro-Tech Development



The European Union Delegation to Sierra Leone calls for proposals under their Agro-Technology development Initiative. Sierra Leone enjoys a diverse environment with suitable land for the cultivation of a wide range of food and commercial crops as well as for livestock production.

The agricultural sector accounts for over 60% of Sierra Leone's GDP and employs nearly two-thirds of the country's labor force. It is primarily composed of local farmers using traditional practices. Yet, local farmers remain the most impoverished, with little to no upward economic mobility. This is due to many of the traditional agricultural practices becoming increasingly inefficient and compromising the country's ability to take full advantage of its natural wealth and to sustain its population.

The project is a uniquely competitive opportunity offered to Sierra Leonean organizations and SMEs seeking to develop and/or expand an innovative and technology-driven sustainable agro-processing and agribusiness. The project has a variety of funding support aimed at enhancing sustainable agro-industry development. The awarding amounts will range from EUR 100,000 to EUR 2,000,000.

Historically, financial systems in West Africa have had hesitancy in providing financial support and guidance to agriculture SMEs. With the European Union's support, financial inclusion will encourage and strengthen the potential of digital financial services at macro, meso and micro levels notably supporting agriculture SMEs access to concessional financing and services.

Interested applicants are strongly encouraged to attend an information session **5<sup>th</sup> May 2021** before their concept note submission. All interested in joining the information session must register via form ([here](#)) prior to receiving the information session link.

The deadline for the submission of the concept note is **1 June 2021**. For more information on eligibility and how to apply, please click ([here](#)), contact [delegation-sierra-leone-cfp@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:delegation-sierra-leone-cfp@eeas.europa.eu) or visit the EU Delegation to Sierra Leone website at [eeas.europa.eu/delegations/sierra-leone\\_en](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/sierra-leone_en)

Source: [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/sierra-leone/96037/call-proposals-jobs-growth-agro-tech-development\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/sierra-leone/96037/call-proposals-jobs-growth-agro-tech-development_en)



## African Ministers of Air Transport adopt Common Position regarding International Travel



H.E Dr Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy convened an extra ordinary meeting of Ministers of Air Transport and key stakeholders on 15th April 2021 to discuss this issue of green vaccine passport/certificates with objective to agree on a common African position and establish a mechanism to properly communicate the position to responsible institutions and partners.

The meeting was co-chaired by H.E Didier Manzengu Makangu Minister of Transport of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chair of the AU Transport Sub Committee and H.E. Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid, AUC Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy

The meeting brought together African Ministers in charge of Air transport and their representatives from the following Member States: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Lesotho Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, Tunisia, Togo, Senegal and South Africa.

Other High level Representatives of air transport institutions, Regional Economic Communities and industry partners from EAC, UNECA, the group of African Ambassadors at the Council of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) other ICAO AFI group members and ICAO Regional Directors, Secretary General of African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), Secretary General of African Airlines Association (AFRAA), Regional Vice President for Africa & Middle East at International Air Transport Association (IATA) and Director of Africa CDC attended the meeting.

The main objective was to present to the African air transport Ministers the proposed common position paper the issue of vaccine passport and its implication to international travel with the view to make appropriate recommendations. All the participants confirmed their support to the African common position and the roadmap developed by the African Union Commission.

In his remarks, the Chair of the AU Transport Sub Committee, H.E Didier Manzengu Makangu appreciated the initiative taken by African Union Commission to develop a common position on the issue of vaccine passport and called the other Ministers of Air Transport to support the proposal for the benefits of the African citizen

H.E Commissioner of Infrastructure and Energy Dr.Amani Abou-Zeid informed the meeting that the various initiatives taken by the AU Department of Infrastructure and Energy in collaboration with African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), Africa CDC, ICAO, AFRAA, IATA and other air transport stakeholders to ensure a sustainable restart and recovery of the African air transport sector are facing important challenges including travel bans and restrictions preventing african citizen to travel to other continents. Moreover, some developed countries have recently introduced an initiative of green vaccine passports/certificates, making it a mandatory entry requirement for African countries.



Ambassador Vincent Banda, ICAO AFI group coordinator also expressed ICAO support to the initiative of AUC and the developed African common position. He recalled that Recommendation 19 of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council Recovery Taskforce (CART) emphasizes that Vaccination should not be a pre-requisite for international travel.

The meeting made a call to all Countries in the different World regions that have introduced or are in the process of introducing vaccine passports as a pre-requisite for international travel to refrain from doing so given that so far, the vaccine has not been made widely available as confirmed by the WHO, and that the African Continent still has considerable number of its citizens who have not yet received the vaccines. The meeting also recommended that the PCR test or antigen test be maintained as the only requirement until when vaccines become widely available.

African Member States were also encouraged to adopt digital test wherever possible as verifiable health credentials and as a trusted platform for traveller information and to coordinate all the concerned stakeholders to implement the “ Call for action on safe re-opening of borders” developed by the AU Multi-sectorial taskforce on “ Saving lives, saving economies and livelihoods.”

As a way forward it was agreed to communicate the adopted African common position to AU Policy organs, Ministers of Health and ICT, other regions including EU and international partners.

Source: <https://www.africanews.com/2021/04/21/african-ministers-of-air-transport-adopt-common-position-regarding-international-travel/>



**SLNBCC event alert (21<sup>st</sup> of May, SL Independence/King's day festivity)**



The SLNBCC wishes to inform its members and partners of its up and coming event slated for the 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2021. The occasion would bring together individuals of Dutch and Sierra Leonean organizations, companies, businesses and institutions within the reach of SLNBCC.

The event will serve as a networking platform and a post-celebration of Sierra Leone's 60<sup>th</sup> independence and the Netherlands Kings Day. Both holidays which are significant to the two nations fall on the same day, the 27<sup>th</sup> of April. Due to the Muslim month of fasting, the celebration was moved from its original date to the 21<sup>st</sup> of May.

We understand how difficult things have been for all of us, our operations, businesses and investments. The event we hope would be an opportunity for us all to create/re-ignites business networks, share our experiences in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic and reflects on our aspirations for the future as we celebrate the two countries.

As an organization that promotes both business and culture, we hope the event will mark the creation of a Dutch-Sierra Leone Festival that will be organized in the succeeding years; (annually) where features will include an exhibition that will focus on showcasing the businesses, practices, culture and traditions of both nations.

**The event's plans (time, venue, and how to attend) will be communicated in due course!**



## Procurement Notices

**Bid Summary:** Tenders Are Invited For Procurement Of Pharmaceuticals For Free Healthcare Initiative.

**Funded by:** NATIONAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES AGENCY (NMSA) Western Africa

**Bid deadline:** 03 May 2021

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**Bid Summary:** Tenders Are Invited For Supply, Delivery And Installation Of Science Laboratory Equipment And Materials For The Education Sector In Sierra Leone

**Funded by:** Ministry of Basic Education Sierra Leone

**Bid deadline:** 10 May 2021

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**Bid Summary:** General Procurement Notice for Sierra Leone Threshold Program

**Funded by:** Millennium Challenge Account (MCA)

**Bid deadline:** 21 October 2021

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**Bid Summary:** Request for Proposal for Supply of Clean Cook Stoves and Energy Efficient Solutions to Vulnerable Communities in Sierra Leone

**Funded by:** ECOWAS Regional Centre for Renewable Energy, Western Africa

**Bid deadline:** 16 November 2021

**For full/more procurement's notices, visit:**

<https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice>

<https://www.nppa.gov.sl/>

<https://www.sl.undp.org/content/sierraleone/en/home/procurement.htm>

<https://www.biddetail.com/global-tenders/sierra-leone-tenders>



## How to Protect Yourself from covid-19

Older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness. Please consult with your health care provider about additional steps you may be able to take to protect yourself.



Clean your hands often



Cover Coughs and Sneezes

- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.
- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- **Throw used tissues** in the trash.
- Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol.



Avoid close contact



Stay home if you're sick

- **Stay home** if you are sick, and only go out when you need to get medical care.
- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick
- Put **distance between yourself and other people** if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.



Wear a facemask if you are sick



Clean and disinfect

- **If you are sick:** You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then you should do your best to cover your coughs and sneezes, and people who are caring for you should wear a facemask if they enter your room.
- **If you are NOT sick:** You do not need to wear a facemask unless you are caring for someone who is sick (and they are not able to wear a facemask). Facemasks may be in short supply and they should be saved for caregivers.

### SOURCES:

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/.html>
2. [http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/misinformation\\_related\\_to\\_the\\_2019\\_coronavirus\\_pandemic](http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/misinformation_related_to_the_2019_coronavirus_pandemic)





# SLNBCC

Sierra Leone Netherlands Business & Culture Council

## COLOFON

### Credits

This newsletter is written and edited by Kemurl Fofanah for the SLNBCC. All articles are written by SLNBCC staff, or shared from news sources with correct references.

### Feedback

Do you have any comments, suggestions or remarks on this newsletter? Feel free to contact us at any time. Please send an email to [ibnfofanah@gmail.com](mailto:ibnfofanah@gmail.com) or [binta@gnbcc.net](mailto:binta@gnbcc.net). Also, we are looking for more press releases from our members. If you have anything you would like to share with our extensive network, our monthly newsletter provides the perfect platform to do so.

### Membership

If you are interested in becoming an SLNBCC Member, please contact Binta Jalloh directly through [binta@gnbcc.net](mailto:binta@gnbcc.net) or by calling **+232(0)78381007**.

[www.slnbcc.com](http://www.slnbcc.com)

[www.facebook.com/slnbcc](https://www.facebook.com/slnbcc)

*Thank you for reading our newsletter, the SLNBCC team: Binta Jalloh, Kemurl Fofanah,*

