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GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

Name of Project: Public Financial Management Improvement and Consolidation Project

Credit/Grant Numbers: IDA Credit Number 5350-SL, TF Grant Number 17201-SL and AfDB-2100155027317

Assignment Title: Country-wide Call for Expression of Interest and Concept Notes from Non State Actors (NSA) and Media Houses/Institutions for strengthening public oversight of Public Financial Management in Sierra Leone

Reference No. SL-MoFED-109331-CS-CDS

Date of Issuance: 2nd May, 2019

1. Source of Funds

The Government of Sierra Leone has received funding in the amount of Twenty Eight Million Five Hundred Thousand United State Dollars (\$ 28.5 million) plus a Ten Million United State Dollars (\$10 million) additional Finance in an IDA grant of the World Bank, Multi Donor Trust Fund(MDTF), European Union (EU), Department for International Development (DFID) and pool funding from the AfDB towards the cost of Public Financial Management Improvement and Consolidation Project (PFMICP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of the funding for the award of grants to eligible NSAs and Media agencies to carry out Public financial management (PFM) projects across the country.

2.0. Background to the NSA Grant Support Programme

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) through its Public Financial Management Improvement and Consolidation Project funded by the World Bank operates a Non State Actors (NSA) Grant Support programme that is managed by the NSA Secretariat in the Ministry of Finance. The Grant programme is among the core programmes at the NSA Secretariat and forms the bedrock of the secretariat's demand-driven activities.

The overarching objective of the NSA Grant Programme is to provide support (technical and financial) in the form of small grants to qualifying NSAs organizations/Media houses to carry out various interventions that are geared towards enhancing accountability systems and practices and improving independent and public oversight in the management and use of public finances and service delivery in Sierra Leone.

To enhance the oversight role of NSAs and Media Houses/Institutions, grants will be made available under the NSA Grant Programme to promote social accountability interventions that are geared towards enhancing accountability systems and practices, and improving independent and public oversight in the management and use of public finances and service delivery in Sierra Leone.

3.0 Objective of the assignment :

The mode of accessing grant funds by NSAs and Media institutions/Houses is determined by their response to the call for expression of interest through submission of concept notes which will be assessed by an external assessor referred to as the Sub Grant Evaluation Agent (SEA).

The process of providing grants to eligible NSA and Media Houses will consolidate and strengthen the advocacy role as well as the oversight functions of Civil Society Organization and mass media campaign by media Houses on PFM and service delivery on health, education, and agriculture/livelihood.

Civil society organisations/media houses should submit their expression of interest into either of the following PFM areas of interest:

- ***Analysis and monitoring the implementation of external audit recommendations/Public Accounts Committee Reports at either central or local levels,***
- ***Service delivery assessment with specific focus on efficiency and effectiveness of the use of resources with special focus on any of the policy areas related to free quality education***
- ***Analysis, monitoring and engagement with public expenditure management or in-year budget execution at the central level***
- ***Support for advocacy activities related to strengthening the legal and institutional frameworks of public financial management and dissemination of information on all aspects of PFM at the national and local government levels; There will be a particular focus on activities that will increase horizontal accountability in sectors (parent teacher associations, local communities, etc.), using ICT wherever relevant.***

3.0. Description of the Grant Awarding Process

1. Concept notes received through this call for expression will be assessed by an independent sub-grant evaluation agent (SEA) who will short list applicants and provide recommendations. A separate Oversight Committee in the Ministry of Finance will endorse recommended candidates by the SEA as meeting pre-set application and evaluation criteria.

2. Successful applicants who passed the first shortlisting stage will be asked to submit a full proposal including detailed budget of their proposed interventions to be assessed by the SEA who assess and short list applicants and

provide recommendations to the Sub PFM Oversight Committee on the NSA Grant for final decision of grants award subject to DPs No Objection.

The overarching role of the SEA is to ensure that there is a level playing field for all applicants. The SEA together with the MoF will also monitor the use of funds by successful applicants. In the discharge of this function, the SEA will apply the values and principles in delivering service that is based on a strong commitment to integrity and objectivity.

Instruction to Applicants:

Non State Actors and media institutions/Houses nationwide are now invited to submit Expression of Interest and Concept Notes for funding for their proposed activity. The concept notes will form the basis of a short-listing process by the Sub-grant Evaluation Agent (SEA). **Only successful shortlisted applicants will be contacted and requested to submit full proposals.** Guidance and templates for the preparation of the concept notes can be accessed by sending request email to nsa.secretariat@gmail.com or by visiting the NSA Secretariat. The REOI will led to the preparation of a shortlist of non-state actors and Media Houses/ Institution nationwide.

4.0 Deliverables/Output

This REOI will lead to the preparation of Short list of Consultants

The attention of the Non-state Actors and Media Houses nationwide is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's [Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IDA Grants by World Bank Borrowers, \(January 2011\)](#). ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. The Consultant will be selected in accordance with ***Individual Consultant (IC)*** method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Please indicate clearly on the envelop (in the case of hard copy application) or in the email subject heading and attachment (in the case of electronic application) the title of this Request for Expressions of Interest.

NOTE: Concept Notes must be submitted to:

The Non State Actors Secretariat
Ministry of Finance
6th Floor, Ministerial Building, George Street
Freetown

Or

By E-mail application as attachment (including all supporting documents) to: nsa.secretariat@gmail.com
Further information can be obtained at the address below during the office hours of 9h: 00 to 17h:00.

Expressions of Interests must be delivered in written forms to the address or email stated above not later than Thursday 23rd May, 2019, on or before 4:45pm.

