SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



Not 'hi-tech' but it works: A radio station broadcasting last week's AFRC sentencing hearing live to the nation.

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office

as at: Monday, 23 July 2007

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday. Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact Martin Royston-Wright Ext 7217

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Special Court for Sierra Leone

Press and Public Affairs Office

PRESS RELEASE

Freetown, Sierra Leone, 20 July 2007

New Registrar, Deputy Registrar for the Special Court

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has appointed Herman von Hebel as Registrar of the Special Court. Mr. von Hebel has served as Deputy Registrar of the Court since July 2006. He was named Acting Registrar in March 2007 following the departure of former Registrar Lovemore Munlo, SC.

Mr. von Hebel has wide experience in international law. From 1991 to 2000 he was a member of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, working within the Department of the Legal Adviser and the Directorate of Legal Affairs.

Between 1995 and 2000 he represented the Government of the Netherlands on the Preparatory Committee to set up the International Criminal Court. In 1998 he chaired the Working Group on the Definition of War Crimes at the Rome Conference, and from 1999 to 2000 he chaired the Working Group on the Elements of Crimes.



He joined the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY) in 2001 as Senior Legal Officer.

Mr. von Hebel has named Binta Mansaray to succeed him as Deputy Registrar. Ms Mansaray, who has served since 2003 as the Special Court's Outreach Coordinator, is the first Sierra Leonean to hold this post.



"Together we will steer the Court in the coming years, focusing on implementing the completion strategy and leaving behind a legacy for Sierra Leone", Mr. von Hebel said in announcing the appointment.

Ms. Mansaray has long experience in advocating for human rights in Sierra Leone. Immediately prior to joining the Special Court, she worked as Country Representative with the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, where she advocated for the rights of women and children affected by conflict.

Her contributions to human rights have been recognized in Sierra Leone and internationally. In 2005, she was named a Global Rights Honouree for her work on behalf of war-affected women in Sierra Leone. In 2006 she was named a Civitan Good Will Ambassador.

The Outreach Section works to educate the people of Sierra Leone and the region about the work of the Special Court, and to develop a two-way dialogue between the Court and the people. Under Ms. Mansaray's leadership, Outreach Section has become recognized as a model for other international courts in the administration of justice.

Concord Times

Monday, 23 July 2007



Special Court gets female Registrar

<u>By Abdul Karim</u> <u>Koroma</u>

A press release from the Special Court stated Friday that the Court's Registrar. Herman von Hebel has named Binta Mansaray to succeed him as Deputy Registrar. Mansaray is the first Sierra Leonean to hold that position.

Prior to her appointment she was the Special Court's Outreach Coordinator. She has been serving the Court since 2003.

The United Nations Secretary General has appointed Herman von Hebel as the Court's Registrar.

The statement stated that von Hebel has served as

Deputy Registrar of the Court since July 2006, adding that he was named Acting Registrar in March 2007 following the departure of former Registrar Lovemore Munlo.

"Together we will steer the Court in the coming years, focusing on implementing the completion strategy and leaving behind a legacy for Sierra Leone," Hebel said after he was named Registrar.

"Mr. von Hebel has wide experience in international law. From 1991 to 2000 he was a member of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, working within the Department of the Legal Adviser and the Directorate of Legal Affairs," the release stated. According to the release, between 1995 and 2000 he represented the government of Netherlands' on the Preparatory Committee to set up the International Criminal Court.

"In 1998 he chaired the Working Group on the Definition of War Crimes at the Rome Conference, and from 1999 to 2000 he chaired the Working Group on the Elements of Crimes. the He joined International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY) in 2001 as Senior Legal Officer," the release disclosed.

Guilty verdicts and Sentences not the end of the story for victims

of war crimes

Amnesty International brutal crimes perpetrated said the guilty verdicts and against them and members of step - should not be the criminally violent conflict.

Brima Bazzy Kamara (Sentenced to 45 years) and and war crimes committed punishment, and mutilation. war crimes is not a bar under They were acquitted of international inhumane acts.

signal to the people of Sierra of violence - especially those

sentencings by the Special their families - but there are Court for Sierra Leone many others who carried out against three senior terrible acts during the country's members of Sierra Leone's 11 years of conflict," said Hugo feared Armed Forces Relva, Amnesty International Revolutionary Council Legal Adviser. "Thousands of (AFRC) - while a positive others can and must be held responsible closing chapter in the Reparations must also be struggle to achieve justice provided to the victims in order for the terrible crimes for justice to begin to prevail committed against the throughout Sierra Leone", said people of that country Brima A. Sheriff, Director of during the 11 years of Amnesty International, Sierra Leone section. Remarkably, . Alex Tamba Brima this decision by the Special (Sentenced to 50 years), Court marks the first time in history that individuals have been convicted and sentenced Santigie Borbor Kanu of war crimes for conscripting (sentenced to 50 years), all and enlisting children under the senior commanders of the age of fifteen into armed forces AFRC, were convicted of or groups and using them to crimes against humanity participate actively in hostilities. These ruling also reaffirmed in a non-International armed the well-established principle conflict, including unlawful that a national amnesty granted killings, extermination, rape, to any person in respect of acts of terrorism, collective crimes against humanity and

law to sexual slavery and other investigation or prosecution. The sentencing send a "These verdicts and powerful message to those still sentencing send a positive suffering the effects of years

Leone that someone will be thousands who bear the terrible held responsible for the scars of having been forced to participate in violent acts as children and the many women and girls who were victims of rape," said Tania Bernath, Amnesty International's researcher on Sierra Leone, "It is not only important that victims are made aware of these verdicts, but that either a fast track system of legal aid is provided so that victims can claim the compensation that is their legal right."

'These convictions and sentencing should encourage the government of Sierra Leone to set aside the amnesty provisions contained in the Lomé Accord and make all crimes under international law including genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, torture and enforced disappearances - criminal

under national law," said Hugo Relva. To date, the Special Court for Sierra Leone has indicted 13 individuals under its limited mandate to prosecute those bearing the greatest responsibility for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed since 30 November 1996 out of the thousands of persons who committed these crimes over a decade and who continue to enjoy impunity.

Out of the 13, nine are in custody and trials have started for all of them. Three have died and one remains at large.

A range of reparations and a trust fund to help fill the unclear whether a fastgap if a convicted person gtrack system will be lacks the means to provide established so that victims

reparations are provided by the International Criminal Court to victims of crimes it prosecutes. However, the Statute of the Special Court for Sierra Leone adopted a more restrictive approach, saying that it can only order the forfciture of property taken from victims by a convicted person and its return to the rightful owner. So far, the government

of Sierra Leone has failed to review the national justice system to ensure that procedures are put in place so that victims of crimes prosecuted by the Special Court can seek compensation before national courts without delay. In particular, it is

can claim reparations, including restitution, rehabilitation, compensation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition without delay or whether they will be provided with legal aid to seek compensation.

The amnesty of the Lomé Accord of 7 July 1999 still bars the prosecution of anyone in a Sierra Leone court for crimes against humanity, war crimes and other crimes under international law. Even if the amnesty did not apply, however, prosecutions for these crimes would not be possible since Sierra Leone has not vet defined them as crimes under national law.



The Spark Monday, 23 July 2007



By Hassan Y. Koroma The Secretary General of the United Nations has appointed Herman Von Hobel as Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Prior to his new appointment, Von Hobel was initially serving the Court as Deputy Registrar since July 2006 and was later named Acting Registrar from March 2007 due to the departure of Lovemore Munlo.

The Secretary General stressed on the vast experience of the newly appointed Dutch man in the International law as he was a member of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Department of legal Adviser and Director of Legal Affairs.

Mr. Von Hebel has represented the government of Netherlands in the Preparatory Committee to set up International Criminal Court and later the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia as Senior Legal Officer.

He has named an experienced human rights advocate in Sierra Leone, Miss. Binta Mansaray as his successor. While as an Outreach Co coordinator since 2003, she worked vehemently to educate the general public about the day-to-day running of the court.

Independent Observer

Monday, 23 July 2007

New Registrar, Deputy Registrar For Special Court

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"Together we will steer the Court in the coming years, focusing on implementing the completion strategy and leaving behind a legacy for Sierra Leone", Mr. von Hebel said in announcing the appointment. Ms. Mansaray has long experience in advocating for human rights in Sierra Leone. Immediately prior to joining the Special Curt, she worked as Country Representative with the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children,



where she advocated for the rights of women and children affected by conflict. Her contributions to human rights have been recognized in Sierra Leone and internation-



ally. In 2005, she was named a Global Rights Honoree for her work on behalf of war-affected women in Sierra Leone. In 2006 she was named a Civitan Good Will Ambassador. The Outreach Section works to educate the people of Sierra Leone and the region about the work of the Special Court, and to develop a twoway dialogue between the Court and the people. Under Ms. Mansaray's leadership, Outreach Section has become recognized as a model for other international courts in the administration of justice.

The Spectator Monday, 23 July 2007

Third MRU Human Rights Defenders Training in Freetown

The first Consultation was held in Freetown where the Freetown Declaration for MRU Human Rights Defenders was agreed upon followed by the 2006 consultation, which was held in Monrovia, Liberia. During the second consultation in Liberia, participants identified the need for further work to be carried our on women's rights and Women Human Rights Defenders, and requested ISHR's continued engagement in this regard. The choice to organize a third MRU consultation and to focus it on women's rights and women' human rights defenders therefore responds to a specific need identified by defenders working in the region.

The main objective of this consultation is to raise awareness of the situation of women and Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRD) in the region and increase the understanding use and access of national, regional and international human rights protection procedures and mechanisms. Participants will include human rights defenders in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, and Ivory Coast.

This year, more time will be dedicated to the session on networking to increase the protection of Human Rights Defenders in the sub region. The training will take place at Hotel Kimbima Aberdeen, Freetown from Monday 23rd to Friday 27th July 2007. Participants are selected from Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Ivory Coast. The Special Reporters for Human Rights Defenders in the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights Mme Reine Alappini Gansssou will do the official opening of the Consultations and Training on Tuesday 24th July at 10.00am due to flights schedule.

Cotton Tree News Friday, 20 July 2007

Special Court Sentences

Written by Ndeamoh Mansaray



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Special Court Sentenced Alex Tamba Brima also known as Gullit and Santigie Bobor Kanu alias Five-Five to a fifty- years term of imprisonment each.... Ibramin Bazzy Kamara is to serve a term of forty-five years These are the first sentences made by the court since its establishment. Delivering her judgment, Justice Julia Sebuntinde said the Trial Chamber cannot recall a situation in which such atrocious crimes had ever been recorded in human history. She pointed out that it was against that background that the court found the three accused guilty. Justice Sebutinde said that the Trial chamber did not find any mitigating factors that would justify reducing the sentences. She said the decision of the court would send a message that international laws must be obeyed. The three former AFRC members were convicted on eleven counts charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. They appeared in formal dress. They looked despondent as their sentences were given. Their jail terms start immediately. They may appeal against the sentences. Last Updated (Saturday, 21 July 2007)

Rapaport News Friday, 20 July 2007

New Registrar to Head Special Court, Taylor Assets Remain Frozen

By Jeff Miller

RAPAPORT... United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon appointed Herman von Hebel, a Dutch national, as the new registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone upon the departure of Lovemore Munlo. Von Hebel steps into the role after having served as deputy registrar for one year. Von Hebel named Binta Mansaray of Sierra Leone to the deputy post.

The Special Court is responsible for trying those responsible for Sierra Leone's civil war. This week the court handed down its first sentence in Freetown for three members of the Revolutionary United Front. The men are to serve between 45 and 50 years in prison for war crimes, and lawyers for the defendants plan to appeal the decision.

A satellite courtroom for the Special Court has been set up at The Hague for the trial of former Liberia President Charles Taylor and proceedings are expected to begin August 20. Taylor's attorney however suggested on July 19th that he needs more time to prepare and may seek to delay the starting date. Taylor has pleaded not guilty to 11 counts of war crimes in Sierra Leone. Taylor also claimed he is destitute and was awarded \$100,000 per month by the court to pay for legal fees, and investigator and other expenses.

On July 20 from Washington D.C., President George W. Bush re-issued an asset freeze on Taylor, members of his family, and members of the Taylor regime. The freeze was begun in July 2004. President Bush wrote through executive order that Liberia remains fragile and thus Taylor's followers hold the potential to undermine the nation's recovery.

President Bush noted that Liberia's new leader, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, and her government were not targets of the executive order.

Agence France Presse

Friday, July 2007

Sierra Leone's jailed rebel chiefs to appeal sentences

FREETOWN, July 20, 2007 (AFP) - Three former Sierra Leonean rebel commanders who were jailed for between 45 and 50 years by a UN-backed war crimes court will appeal their sentences, the court's spokesman said Friday.

"All three of them are to appeal," Peter Andersen, spokesman of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) told AFP.

He said the trio had two weeks to file their appeals.

The court on Thursday handed out 50-year sentences to Alex Tamba Brima, 35, and Santigie Borbor Kanu, 42, while Brima Bazzy Kamara, 39, was sentenced to 45 years behind bars.

The three leaders of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), a rebel faction which toppled an elected government in 1997, were found guilty of mutilation, murder, rape and enlisting child soldiers during the brutal 10-year civil war.

They are the first of nine defendants appearing before the court, which is trying the main perpetrators of crimes committed during the west African country's 1991-2001 conflict, financed largely by its so-called "blood diamonds."

Prosecutors had asked for between 50 and 60 year sentences for what judge Julia Sebutinde described as the "most heinous, brutal and atrocious crimes in human history."

Andersen said an appeals chamber will soon be set up and five judges who will preside over it will soon come to the capital Freetown. The judges are from Australia, Austria, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka.

After deposing President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah in May 1997, the AFRC set up one of the most vicious juntas Africa has known, unleashing a nine-month terror campaign that included burning children to death, mutilating, looting and cold-blooded killings.

By the time the country's decade-long civil war ended in 2001, some 120,000 people had died and thousands of others had been mutilated, with their arms, legs, ears or noses chopped off.

Presszoom.Com Friday, 20 July 2007 http://presszoom.com/story_137486.html

AFRC Sentence

** Sierra Leone

On Sierra Leone, just a few hours ago, the Special Court for Sierra Leone sentenced to lengthy prison terms three former members of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council for their part in crimes committed during Sierra Leone's decade-long civil conflict. These are the first sentences handed down by the Special Court.

Alex Tamba Brima, Brima Bazzy Kamara and Santigie Borbor Kanu were each convicted on 20 June on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Court imposed single so-called global sentences of 50 years for Brima, 45 years for Kamara and 50 years for Kanu. They will be given credit for time served since their arrests in 2003. The Court ordered that the three men begin serving their sentences immediately.

diamondintelligence.com

Monday, 23 July 2007 http://www.diamondintelligence.com/magazine/magazine.asp?id=5267

US President Bush Extends Freeze on Charles Taylor's Assets

Former Liberian President Charles Taylor, who is currently standing trial in The Hague by the Special Court for Sierra Leone, is facing consequences both in and outside of court. United States President George W. Bush has issued an executive order extending a freeze on the assets of Taylor, and members of his regime and family by one year, which Bush first imposed in July 2004.

Taylor served as Liberia's president from 1997-2003, and now faces charges of 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity including murder, rape and using child soldiers during the 1991-2001 civil war in Sierra Leone.

Taylor, who has pleaded not guilty to all charges against him, allegedly trained, armed and controlled the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), which was responsible for the mass murders and mutilations of civilians during the Sierra Leone civil war in which diamonds played a central factor.

Taylor is the first African head of state to stand trial before an international court for war crimes. Due to Taylor's lack of cooperation in the court proceedings since they began in June, such as firing his lawyers, refusing to appear in court, claiming indigence, etc. The proceedings have been postponed until August 20.



United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

UNMIL Public Information Office Media Summary 20 July 2007

[The media summaries and press clips do not necessarily represent the views of UNMIL.]

International Clips on Liberia

International Clips on West Africa

Local Media – Newspaper

Alleged Coup Plotters Probe Continues

(The Inquirer)

• Correspondents said that the National Security Agency was today continuing its probe of suspected coup plotters with names of other key players emerging. Retired Colonel of the Armed Forces of Liberia Wolo Nagbe, former Speaker of the National Transitional Legislative Assembly George Koukou and Lebanese merchant Jacob Kaarahn were expected to appear today with their lawyers for investigation in connection with the purported coup plot.

Ukrainian Pilots at UNMIL Show Goodwill to Needy Liberians

(Public Agenda)

• Some residents of the Roberts International Airport area told reporters that Ukrainian helicopter pilots that provide air support to UNMIL have started to give hot meals to needy Liberians in the area, every morning and that they were thankful for the gesture.

Senate Set to Pass Fiscal Budget Today

(Heritage)

- Members of the House of Senate are expected to pass the 2007/08 National Budget today which was increased to L\$11.6 Billion (US\$199.8 million) by the House of Representatives on Wednesday.
- In an interview, Legislative sources said that the Senate will hold special session today to concur with the House of Representatives on the total passage of the national budget.

National Research Says Liberian Adults HIV Positive

(The Informer, The Analyst and Heritage)

- The Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) released the 2007 preliminary demographic and health survey results of Liberia showing that 2% of Liberian adults have HIV/AIDS.
- Releasing the results yesterday in Monrovia, the Head of LISGIS, Dr. Edward Liberty said the survey also shows that the HIV prevalence rate in the rural areas is 0.8% and a decline in fertility and child deaths.
- This is the first national survey to use population based testing to determine HIV prevalence and direct information on the infection among women and men.

Liberia Electricity Corporation alarms over Power Theft

(The News, National Chronicle and The Inquirer)

- Speaking at a news conference yesterday, the Managing Director of the Liberia Electricity Corporation, Harry Yuan said over the past three months unaccounted for energy has increased to 18%, but said number of measures has been put in place to minimize power theft.
- Mr. Yuan disclosed that two persons have been picked up for power theft and turned over to the Liberia National Police for investigation.

Local Media – Radio Veritas (News monitored yesterday at 6:45 pm)

House of Senate to Pass 2007/2008 Fiscal Budget Today

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

New Report Shows Two Percent of Liberian Adults HIV Positive

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

Liberia Electricity Corporation alarms over Power Theft

(Also reported on ELBS and Star Radio)

House of Representatives Hold Stocktaking Retreat

• Members of the House of Representative are currently meeting in Kakata, Margibi County to review their work over the last six months and improve the work for the third sitting of the National Legislature.

Liberian Government and UN to Launch Food Security Report Today

- The Liberian Government and the United Nations are expected to launch reports on the Liberia Market review and the Monrovia Comprehensive Food Security and Nutrition in Monrovia today.
- The studies are part of government's efforts to build a food security knowledge base that would lead to the development of a national food security strategy was funded by the European Union in support with international partners.

Complete versions of the UNMIL International Press Clips, UNMIL Daily Liberian Radio Summary and UNMIL Liberian Newspapers Summary are posted each day on the UNMIL Bulletin Board. If you are unable to access the UNMIL Bulletin Board or would like further information on the content of the summaries, please contact Mr. Weah Karpeh at karpeh@un.org.

Voice of America

Monday, 23 July 2007

Whistle Blower of Liberia's Alleged Coup Plot Speaks

By James Butty Washington, D.C

Last week, the Liberian government arrested a former general, the speaker of the former National Transitional Legislative Assembly and others for plotting to overthrow the government of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Now the man who might have blown the whistle on the alleged plotters has been giving details of the plot.

Jucontee Thomas Woewiyu is a former defense minister in Charles Taylor's rebel National Patriot Front of Liberia movement. He made the revelations in a memorandum to Liberia's Justice Minister Frances Johnson-Morris, the U.N. Mission in Liberia, and the State Department. In the memorandum, entitled: "A Plot to Overthrow the Liberian Government by Force of Arms", Woewiyu revealed the plot details in email communications between him and George Koukou, the speaker of the former National Transitional Legislative Assembly of Liberia.

Woewiyu explains to VOA English to Africa reporter James Butty how he came to the conclusion that this was a plot to overthrow President Sirleaf.

"The content of the email that was sent to me depicts that the name "Delilah" is Mrs. Sirleaf's code name in the National Patriotic Front (Charles Taylor's former rebel movement). During the war, everyone had their name, their code names, and that was her name, Delilah," Woewiyu said.

According to Woewiyu, both he and Koukou were senior commanders in Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebel movement. They also served together in the former Transitional National Legislative Assembly.

In September 2005, a month before Liberia's historic election, Woewiyu wrote an "open letter" to then candidate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in which he detailed what he said was her involvement in the founding of Charles Taylor's NPFL rebel movement and the prosecution of its 14-year-old civil war.

Yet Woewiyu said that Koukou and the other alleged coup plotters were mistaken if they thought that he was an enemy of President Sirleaf.

"As far as I'm concerned, I see Mrs. Sirleaf's government from a civil point of view. She is the president; she has been elected, and I honor that particular responsibility to support it, and not from the point of view or through the barrel of a gun. So, if Mr. Koukou thought that way, then he is mistaken," he said.

In Koukou's alleged email of June 29, 2007, he asked Woewiyu to provide information about the whereabouts of "farming tools or implements" that Koukou said Woewiyu knew were hidden somewhere in Gbarnga, central Liberia, Charles Taylor's former rebel headquarters. But Woewiyu said he knew nothing about hidden weapons in Gbarnga.

"First of all, Koukou, when I read that part of his communication, I thought that there was something not really true because Koukou knows that I left Gbarnga in 1994 after breaking up with Charles Taylor over the continuation of the war. So where did Koukou get the idea that there were weapons buried in Gbarnga that I should know about? At one point I started to think that may be this is a government set up. May be this man is trying to extract information from for somebody trying to frame me in the government," he said.

In one of Koukou's alleged emails of June 23, 2007, he said Liberians and foreign partners were becoming disgruntled and would support President Sirleaf's overthrow because of her failure to meet expectations.

While agreeing that President Sirleaf has not met some of her campaign promises, Woewiyu said however that this did not justify an overthrow of her government.

"The truth is there are a lot of information coming out of Liberia that the government is not doing well, corruption and all those things. But we need time. Mrs. Sirleaf is not working out of a bank of her own, and I'm not supporting her. She may have made the indication to the Liberian people that once she got elected gold was going to float in the streets of Monrovia, pipe-born water was going to come, light was going to come. None of this has come. That is a failure that we can deal with within the political realm. We don't have to go to war; we don't have to kill each other. And what Liberians must understand is that 250,000 Liberians lost their lives trying to get rid of the last dictator," he said.

Woewiyu said he did not want to be considered a hero for blowing the whistle on the alleged coup plotters.

"I am not a hero; I'm not looking for any favors from the Ellen Sirleaf government. I have not even heard from the government since this information was sent forward. But I feel that I have the responsibility as a senior citizen of this country, a former government official. I was minister labor, President Pro Temp of the Liberian senator. It is incumbent upon me to make sure that the peace that we fought for becomes an everlasting phenomenon of our nation. That's my whole motivation," Woewiyu said.