



NJALA UNIVERSITY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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For Complementing the Universal Health Coverage... Higher Education Minister Applauds Njala University



Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie
Minister of Technical and Higher Education

Professor Alpha Tejan Wurie, Minister of Technical and Higher Education, commended Njala university this weekend for significantly contributing the required human resource to the United Nations Universal Health Coverage benchmark.

The Minister made these words at the University's 14th Congregation event, which took place on Saturday, April 9th, 2022 at the Bo Mini Stadium under the Grand Chief Patronage of Professor Sahr Moses Gevao, the newly appointed Chancellor of Njala University.

According to him, Njala University trains Nurses, Community Health Officers, Community Health Assistants, and Public Health Practitioners, who do the majority of the work in remote and hard-to reach areas, as well as the District Health Management Teams in a country where the population far outnumbers the number of trained and qualified doctors.

Despite its commitment to Universal Health Coverage, the Higher Education Minister highlighted Njala University's contributions to two other government flagship sectors: agriculture and education.

The Minister concluded by urging the authorities at Njala University to take center stage in the government's agricultural transformation agenda by not only producing agricultural experts but also transforming such prowess to feed Sierra Leoneans using the country's fertile soils and favorable climatic conditions.

In his inaugural speech as Chancellor of Njala University, Professor Sahr Moses Gevao expressed gratitude to His Excellency Rtd. Brig. Julius Maada Bio's government for appointing him.

He also applauded the government for maintaining goodwill by depoliticizing higher education administration, resulting in academic independence and autonomy in their operations.

According to him, the establishment of the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education was a praiseworthy government initiative that succeeded in streamlining the country's higher education challenges.

PUBLISHED BY

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He appealed to the Njala University Administration that he was keen on the University's resources being effectively managed in compliance with the country's anti-corruption regulations.

Professor Gevao concluded by assuring the government that Njala University would take more visible steps to achieve His Excellency the President's ambitions for agricultural transformation under his leadership.

Professor Andrew Augustine Baimba, Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal, gave a speech earlier in the day on the topic 'The Role of Njala University in Complementing the Government Human Capital Agenda', highlighting the University's contributions to providing needed human resources in the agricultural, health, and educational sectors, as well as providing expertise to Ministries, Departments, and Agencies.

He praised President Bio's government for its continued support of higher education, which includes allocating 21% of GDP to the sector and giving subventions to manage public universities around the country.

'I am conscious that the government has competing priorities, which is why I am focusing on a private partnership model to address the University's chronic difficulties,' the seasoned educationist explained. He congratulated the graduands and urged them to be loyal to Sierra Leone while travelling across the universe.

Njala University graduated its first 3,098 students from various departments after President Julius Maada Bio withdrew as Chancellor of all Public Universities in 2021, as mandated by the Universities Act of 2021.

In the last eight months, the Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal has been recognized for implementing a back-to-basics model at Njala University, where agricultural farming is revived, effective and accountable teaching, research and community service are prioritized, and strict adherence to the University calendar deadlines are the new trajectories.



Njala University 2022 Graduands

The Acting Vice-chancellor also mentioned the University's numerous problems, such as a lack of connection to the national grid, which he claimed had been a big burden for previous and present administrations of the University. He went on to say that the University had problems with staff and students' housing, teaching and learning facilities, and poor internal roadways.



Njala University 2022 Graduands

3rd Cohort of SPHEIR/AQHED Quality Assurance Officers Graduate from UNIMAK



3rd cohorts of SPHEIR Graduands during their graduation ceremony at UNIMAK Makeni

The University of Makeni has awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Quality Assurance to the third cohort of Quality Assurance Quality Officers selected by Njala University in 2021 through the Assuring Quality Higher Education (AQHED-SL) Njala University Project Implementation Taskforce.

Dr Joseph James Mbavai, head of Teacher Education Department, School of Education, Rev. Emmanuel B.S. Koroma, lecturer at the School of Social Sciences and Law, and Mr. Morrison K. Lahai, lecturer and Acting HoD Institute of Geography and Development Studies, School of Environmental Sciences were among the distinguished graduates.

The Strategic Partnership for Higher Education Innovation and Reform (SPHEIR) Programme supported the course as part of the HEIs' capacity building to promote outcome-based education and quality management systems in Sierra Leone's Higher Education Institutions.

The move by the University Administration is in line with efforts to create effective quality assurance procedures that support practical and quality delivery of course content within the University system.

Higher education institutions (HEIs), the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC), and companies across Sierra Leone formed the Assuring Quality Higher Education in Sierra Leone (AQHed-SL) initiative to improve graduate qualifications and employment.

The goal was to strengthen HEIs' ability to provide high-quality education by implementing outcome-based and student-centred learning.

NATCOM DG Complements HE's Human Capital Agenda

Mr. Daniel Bobson Kaitibi, Director-General of the National Telecommunications Commission (NATCOM) has supported HE Rtd. Brigadier Dr Julius Maada Bio's Human Capital Agenda by providing cutting-edge teaching and learning tools to students at Njala University's Njala Campus.

NATCOM's Director of Internal Audit and Risk Management is Mr. Juldeh O. Bah who deputised the Director-General during the presentation of the items to the University Administration and the Student's Union Government. He stated that the contribution was motivated by the Director-General's belief that the flagship program of free, high-quality education is the backbone of every nation's progress.



Director Internal Audit NATCOM hands over the equipment to DVC Njala campus

CAPS Employer Forum Prepares Students for the Job Market

On Wednesday, March 16th, 2022, Njala University's Career Advisory and Placement Services (CAPS) Center hosted a one-day Employer Forum on job preparedness, career planning, and growth at Towama Hall, Bo Campus.

The programme aimed to meet the employability needs of final year students who were about to enter the workforce.

The Sierra Leone Police, the Military, the Bo Government Hospital, the Judiciary, Sierra Leone Commercial Bank, Eco Bank, Bo City Council, EDSA, NASSIT, NRA, Ministry of Agriculture, National Youth Commission, and World Vision were among the employers invited by the Centre.

These employers provided career planning and job search strategies to the students, followed by a question-and-answer session.

Dr Edward Kebbie, Director of CAPS, stated in his opening remarks that most students after graduation complain about the lack of job opportunities, which he attributed to a lack of knowledge and job search strategies and skills. He guaranteed that the Employer Forum would provide an opportunity for students to meet potential employers while also allowing employers to market their products and services.

Professor Mohamed Syed Fofanah, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Bo Campus, welcomed the guests and students to the seminar, praising the Director of CAPS for the wonderful concept. He also thanked the various MDAs and NGOs for accepting the invitation and advised the students to take advantage of the situation.



Dr Edward Kebbie

Director of CAPS, Njala University, Bo Campus

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal's office developed the Career Advisory and Placement Services Centre in 2011 to address students' employability needs by providing services in career counselling and job search techniques and skills.

SPORTS

As the Njala University Male Soccer Team humbles FBC, USL ... Professor Baimba Salutes the Gallantry of the Team



Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie, Higher and Technical Edu. Min.

presenting the trophy, cash prizes and certificates to the Champions, Njala University

Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Njala University, Professor Andrew Augustine Baimba, has congratulated the University's male soccer team on winning the trophy at the Inter-varsity male soccer tournament held in Freetown on March 14, 2022. The Inter-varsity was organised under the distinguished grand patronage of the Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Professor Alpha Tejan Wurie.

While accepting the championship trophy in front of key officials of his administration at the University Secretariat, Njala Campus on March 15, 2022, Professor Baimba stated that he did not doubt that the squad would represent Njala University well, and that he had been following the team's progress closely since it left the shores of Njala to compete at the Inter-varsity soccer championship.



Prof. Baimba receiving the trophy from the Champions

The Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal also told the squad that their geographical location had little to do with their talents and skills and that he could be ready to take sports to the next level at the University.

The Acting Vice-Chancellor revealed, 'My Administration has created a recreational committee to especially resuscitate all recreational amenities within the school,' and concluded by commending the staff members who successfully managed the three teams that put the University on the map.

Dr Bassie Mansaray, lecturer, Human Kinetics and Health Education Department, School of Education, and the head of the delegation to the competition, reported on the challenges the team faced in Freetown at the hands of their opponents, as well as the team's resilience in bringing laurels back to Njala University. He officially presented the championship male soccer trophy to the Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal, along with cash prizes of ten million Leones and seven million five hundred thousand Leones and certificates for both the male and female volleyball teams.



Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie, Higher and Technical Edu. Min. presenting the trophy, cash prizes and certificates to the Champions, Njala University

The Njala University male soccer team defeated the Government Technical Institute (GTI), the Freetown Polytechnic, formerly Freetown Teachers College, and the University of Makeni's (UNIMAK) male football teams. The male soccer team then went on to win the penalty shoot-out 4-3 against Fourah Bay College in the finale.

The female volleyball team finished second after losing in the finals against Fourah Bay College.

The track and field events were held from the 28th to the 29th April, 2022 at the Bo Mini Stadium with Ernest Bai Koroma University emerging the winner and Njala University coming third.

The Inter-varsity tournament is the first in nearly a decade, resurrected by the Minister of Technical and Higher Education, who under his auspices, a conflict-free and well-attended event was witnessed.



The 2022 inter-varsity champions