



NJALA UNIVERSITY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Chief Minister Assures Njala University

The Chief Minister of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Honorable Jacob Jusu Saffa has assured Njala University of President Bio's unflinching commitment to the growth and development of the University.

He made this statement during the delivery of a **500 KVA** generator to the institution by Orange Sierra Leone.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by the Minister of Information and Communication, Mohamed Rahman Swarray; Deputy Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Honorable Abdul Aziz Kamara; Deputy Minister of Energy and Power, Dr. Eldred Taylor; Political Advisers in the Office of the President, Ambassador Brima Kapuwah and Dr. Emmanuel Gaima.



Hon. Jacob Jusu Saffa
Chief Minister of the Republic of Sierra Leone



**Chief Minister Commissions 500KVA
Generator at Njala Campus**

The Chief Minister thanked Orange Sierra Leone for providing a **500KVA** generator to Njala University and disclosed that “the Government of President Bio has taken over an ambitious Human Capital Development Agenda to address the issues of underlining poverty, which has a direct correlation with illiteracy”

He encouraged Njala University to not only expand and produce experts in the Agricultural Value Chain but to also make way for agriculture graduates to be self-reliant through a ‘Business Model’ that will address the perennial challenges of the University.

The Chief Minister concluded by disclosing that the internal roads of Njala University, which were awarded to a contractor during his tenure at the Ministry of Finance, would commence in October 2021.

Professor Andrew Baimba, Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Njala University disclosed to the Chief Minister and his delegation that Njala had never benefitted from the national grid and this, according to him, had continued to cripple the finances of the University.

He lauded the Office of the Chief Minister for swiftly providing the 500KVA generator to Njala Campus and thanked Orange Sierra Leone for being of great service to Njala University over the years.

The Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal concluded by appealing for an overhaul of the electricity distribution and supply infrastructure of the Njala Campus, and the provision of transformers and more generators to enhance the electricity capacity of the campus.

Ms. Jestina Betts, Director, Orange Foundation, Sierra Leone expressed that, “Education in the 21st century has been characterized by the use of technology, fully supported by electricity”. She disclosed that it was against such a backdrop that they considered making a donation of 500KVA to Njala University.

Dr. Eldred Taylor, Deputy Minister of Energy and Power, on behalf of Minister Kanja Sesay, disclosed that the energy needs of Njala University had been very close to the heart of His Excellency, Retired Brigadier Julius Maada Bio. He highlighted the short and long-term measures adopted by the Ministry to address the energy needs of the University.

The Minister of Information and Communications, Mohamed Rado Swarray, disclosed that his Ministry had given very strong attention to the provision of sustainable internet connectivity to the University and that a team from his Ministry had already done a needs assessment in that direction.

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Leadership Transition at Njala University



Professor Osman Sankoh (Mallam O.) handing over to Professor Andrew Baimba

Njala University, on the 1st July, 2021, had a leadership transition from Professor Osman Sankoh (Mallam O.) to Professor Andrew A. Baimba who, until his appointment, was Head of Physics Department, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone.

The incoming served Njala University for over two decades in respective positions as Head of Department, Physics; Deputy Vice-Chancellor of both Bo and Njala Campuses, and now as Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal. He played an active role in the University's internal scoring, policies and curriculum review processes.

Prof. Mallam O. described the incoming as his lecturer, and said that his appointment was a blessing for Njala University.

Minister of Technical and Higher Education Calls for Self-introspection at Njala University

Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Professor Alpha Tejan Wurie, on the 21st June, 2021, called on the Administration of Njala University to do self-introspection about its programs. He made the statement during a donation of teaching and learning materials to the University by the Ministry.

Njala University, according to him, had mainstreamed Agriculture and Education as the core areas during its creation in 1964 but had paid more attention in expanding its programs in the last fifteen (15) years. He therefore encouraged the University Administration to rather consolidate and concentrate on staff strengthening rather than expanding into more disciplines, which, according to him, “requires huge funding and an appropriate staff establishment”.



Professor Alpha Tejan Wurie
Minister of Technical and Higher Education

The Minister, however, appreciated the prowess of the University to expand and create programs in more emerging 21st-century issues.

The incoming Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Andrew Baimba praised his predecessor for the gains Njala made during his administration. He thanked the Ministry for appointing him and assured the Minister that he would commit himself fully to the direction of staff strengthening and consolidation.

Njala University Ends Management and Functional Review Retreat



Professor Andrew Baimba
Acting Vice-Chancellor and
Principal Njala University

Njala University has ended a three-day management and functional review retreat at the Galliness Hotel in Bo, Southern Sierra Leone.

The restructuring process of public universities in Sierra Leone is a new initiative of the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education. The rationale is to help consolidate and strengthen staff capacities and develop outcome-based programs and courses. The three-day workshop highlighted a number of key recommendations around the rationalization of key programs and courses and other related matters.

Professor Andrew Baimba, Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal, opening the retreat on Thursday, 16th July, 2021, told Deans of School and other academic and administrative staff that he was in a better position to understand the past and present Njala University, and to participate in designing the pathway for the future. He further encouraged them to engage in frank discussions around the goals of the retreat with the view to producing a blueprint that would be further scrutinized by the University Restructuring Committee.

Parliament Enacts the Universities Act of 2021

The Parliament of Sierra Leone has on the 8th of July, 2021, debated and passed into law the Bill entitled: "The Universities Act, 2021".

The Bill sought to repeal and replace the Universities Act, 2005 (Act No.1 of 2005), providing for the continuation of the University of Sierra Leone, Njala University, and the Ernest Bai Koroma University of Science and Technology, and the establishment of the Milton Margai Technical University, the Eastern Technical University of Sierra Leone and the Kono University of Science and Technology, to provide for the appointment of Chancellors of Universities by the President, to provide for the establishment of other public universities and private universities and to provide for other related matters.



Professor Alpha Tejan Wurie
Minister of Technical and Higher Education

The Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie thanked President Bio and Parliament for expanding on technical, scientific and technological education in the country, which he said was aimed at improving on human capital development in Sierra Leone.

Njala University set to mainstream the Cultivation of Mushroom in Sierra Leone

Njala University is set to mainstream the cultivation and processing of mushrooms in Sierra Leone. The initiative, driven by the Department of Horticulture, School of Natural Resources Management, is part of the World Bank's and MTHE's Le 2.2 billion Skills Development Project.

The grant had provided for the training of over two hundred and fifty (250) vulnerable youth across the country.

The Government of Sierra Leone, through the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education, supported by the World Bank, is shifting the development trajectory of vulnerable youth in Sierra Leone from being school drop-outs to independent and confident life-skilled development.

The Project-lead for the Skills Development Project, Dr. Peter Musa, Head of the Department of Horticulture, School of Natural Resources Management, disclosed that "the project has provided the requisite infrastructure and equipment that will mainstream the cultivation and processing of mushroom at Njala University and also support teaching, learning and research within the Natural Resources Management School".

Dr. Musa further expressed that it had been a huge challenge to access mushroom spawns locally and even those that were exported into the country had challenges with quality.



Cross section of trainees undergoing the mushroom training at Njala University

OBITUARIES



The death is reported of Peter E. A. A. Sifoe, former employee in the Department of Teacher Education, School of Education, Bo Campus, Njala University. This sad event took place on Sunday, 20th June, 2021.

Peter E. A. A. Sifoe

The death is reported of Mrs. Hannah Lissa, former employee at the Student Services Unit, Njala University, Bo Campus. This sad event took place on Sunday, 18th July, 2021.



Mrs. Hannah Lissa