



NJALA UNIVERSITY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Njala University Strengthens South-South Cooperation with University of Liberia

Njala University, Sierra Leone, and the University of Liberia have, on Friday, 3rd September 2021, strengthened the South-South cooperation by signing a memorandum of understanding to promote collaboration in the areas of staff training and exchange opportunities.

Professor Dr Julius J. Sarwolo Nelson Jr., President of Liberia University, informed his Sierra Leonean counterparts that the visit was a follow-up to a joint commitment made by President Bio and President Weah in 2019 to foster cooperation among HEIs in the sister countries.

The Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Njala University, Professor Andrew Baimba, welcomed the delegation and gave the background to Njala University's establishment, noting that the University had, over the years, excelled in Agriculture, Education and Postgraduate Programmes.

Professor Andrew Baimba expressed hope that the MoU would benefit both institutions.

'It is time that higher educational institutions in the Mano River basin collaborated to strengthen the south-south cooperation and solve the region's common problems, the Acting Vice-Chancellor said.



Njala University's Professor Andrew Baimba & Professor, Dr Julius J. Sarwolo Nelson Jr., President, University of Liberia

The Liberian delegation was also to hold bilateral discussions with the leadership of other Higher Educational Institutions in Sierra Leone.

Agriculture Minister Concludes a One-Day Visit to the School of Agriculture and Food Sciences



Mr Abu Bakar Karim

The Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Sierra Leone

The Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Mr Abu Bakar Karim, has on Monday 6th September 2021, concluded a one-day working visit to the School of Agriculture and Food Sciences, Njala University.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Njala Campus, Professor Bashiru Mohamed Koroma, and the Dean of the School of Agriculture and Food Sciences, Professor Alieu Mohamed Bah, took the Minister and his entourage on a conducted tour of the School's e-teaching, learning, and research facilities.

The Minister met leaders of the School and consulted on the need to collaborate in the country's agricultural transformation.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Njala University, informed the Minister about the University's current restructuring process and the Administration's desire to create the School of Veterinary Medicine alongside the School of Agriculture and food sciences.

Professor Bah expressed that the School had the experts to support the Government's second agricultural flagship project but needed an infrastructure expansion to accommodate the over one thousand students.

Professor Patrick Sawyerr, Head of Department, Soil Science, presenting a paper to the Minister, on behalf of the School, started by giving a background to the establishment of Njala University and the School of Agriculture. He highlighted the various achievements of the School over the years in the areas of teaching, research and community service.

In his paper, Professor Sawyerr outlined the low quality of student intake, poor support to improve agricultural infrastructure, and inadequate infrastructure as significant problems the School faces.

The Minister, while responding, expressed that Agriculture is a catalyst in President Bio's Human Capital Development Agenda and hence critical to the success of the Educational and Health sector pillars of the Human Capital Agenda.

He recognised the incongruity in how agricultural institutions had been treated in the past, which, to him, was responsible for these institutions' present dire state of affairs.

He disclosed that the reason for a second minister appointment in the Ministry was for Government to have a specific individual to directly deal with all the agricultural institutions in the country to help contribute meaningfully to the country's agricultural transformation.



The Minister receiving briefings from Mrs. Memunatu Sawi

Ministry of Technical and Higher Education Awards 2,700 Grant-In-Aid to University Students

The Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Professor Dr Alpha Tejan Wurie, has told journalists in Freetown that Government had awarded two thousand seven hundred Sierra Leone Government Grant-in-Aid to students of all public universities in the country.

A total of six thousand one hundred and twenty-five students (6,125) applied in all 16 districts for the scholarship.

The Minister reported that the application process was done through the Ministry's application portal, centralised in every district with committees comprising the Anti-Corruption Commission, Civil Society Organisations and the Media.

Prof. Wurie also reported that students offering programmes in the Sciences, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture and Mathematics (STEAM) benefited from the award.

The Minister informed the Press that His Excellency President, Retired Dr Julius Maada Bio, recently gave his assent to the Universities Act of 2021.



Professor Alpha Tejan Wurie
Minister of Technical and Higher Education

Njala University Complements President Bio's Human Capital Development Agenda

Njala University's Distance Education Programme has recently expanded to cover Bo, Kono, Moyamba, Pujehun, Bonthe Mainland and Bonthe Island; Poturu and Koribondo in Sierra Leone, with an enrolment of 1,500 students in the 2020/2021 Academic year.

The expansion has helped boost President Bio's Human Capital Development Agenda and bring education to the doorsteps of Sierra Leoneans.

The Distance Education Programme, established in the 2018/2019 academic year, aims at serving aspiring students who cannot enter the conventional programmes of the University.

Dr Tamba Kebbie, Acting Director of the Centre for Pedagogical Excellence at Njala University, disclosed that the Centre designs short pedagogical programmes like Distance Education to help train teachers in teacher professionalism, leadership, and research.



Professor Mohamed Syed Fofanah
DVC Bo Campus

Prof. John-Langba Appointed Mental Health Regional Vice President for Africa

Professor Johannes John-Langba, a proud alumnus of Njala University, has been appointed as World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) regional vice president for Africa.

Professor John-Langba, who currently serves at the University of KwaZulu-Natal as the Academic Leader of Research and Higher Degrees in the School of Applied Human Sciences and director of the College of Humanities, Doctoral Academy, will officially begin his term at the World Assembly and Annual General Meeting of the World Federation of Mental Health in November.

The appointment requires him to serve in the capacity until 2023.

WFMH is an international membership organisation founded in 1948 to advance, among all peoples and nations, the prevention of mental and emotional disorders, the proper treatment and care of those with such conditions, and the promotion of mental health.

'I plan to utilise my role to engage in evidence-based advocacy for increased investment in mental health by African governments as part of the WFMH's global call for greater investments in mental health,' he said.



Professor Johannes John-Langba

As the WFMH regional vice president for Africa, Professor Johannes John-Langba is the official representative of WFMH in Africa.

AU/NEPAD set to Commission 100 Kilowatt Solar PV Generating System for Njala University



Solar panels installed to generate and distribute electricity to Njala University Hospital

The Njala University Hospital will soon benefit from a 100 kilowatt solar PV generating System to drive climate change technology as part of the Covid 19 intervention in water, electricity and agriculture.

The scheme is part of a One-megawatt project to Njala University, funded by the African Union Development Agency (AUDA) and the New African Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD).

The project will provide 100 kilowatts of electricity to the Njala University Hospital and six (6) water stand taps to Mokonde Community. It will also support the Njala Campus lower nursery with a drip irrigation system.

Seawright Mining Company and Njala University Set to Commission a Recirculatory Aquaculture System

Njala University, in partnership with Seawright Mining Company, is set to officially commission a multi-million-dollar Recirculatory Aquaculture System at the School of Natural Resources Management, Njala Campus.

The project, funded by Seawright Mining Company, a diamond exploration company in Kono District, Eastern Sierra Leone, came about when Njala University and the Seawright Mining Company signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 12th October 2020.

The project will rely on mutual obligation, supporting Njala University with a thirty cubic meter fully automated Recirculatory Aquaculture System, erecting a Tilapia Hatchery and installing a Fish Feed Extrusion Machine. Njala will provide a site for the establishment of the system, technical expertise during the construction. Being the first in the sub-region, the facility will provide training and technical support to fish farmers in the country.



The Multi-Million Dollar Recirculatory Aquaculture System at Njala University

Njala University Junior Staff Association Elect a New President

The Junior Staff Association of Njala University has, on Friday 10th September 2021, elected a new president for the association to replace Mr Samuel Kamara.

Mr James Momoh Tucker had one hundred and forty-five (145) votes, defeating his closest contender Mr. Ansu K. Senessie of Njala University Radio, who scored forty-two (42) votes.

In his first speech as president, Mr Tucker prioritised reviewing the Junior Staff Constitution to address presidential terms, and welfare, among other issues affecting the Union.



Mr James Momoh Tucker
Junior Staff Association President Elect, Njala University

'My immediate priority is to have a highly inclusive Government. To this end, I intend to bring into my government colleagues who contested the elections with me,' the JSA President promised.