

**DR. RICHARD KONTEH'S
PERSPECTIVES ON
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT P10**



**ELECTIONS SPECIAL
NEW ANALYSIS UNVEILED
PART 2 P30**

ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST AND SECOND BATCHES OF THE 2023 ELECTION RESULTS

Batch	Party	Seats	Percentage
First Batch	Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP)	10	100%
	Sierra Leone All Stars Party (SLASP)	0	0%
	Sierra Leone People's Party - United Front (SLPP-UF)	0	0%
	Sierra Leone People's Party - National Front (SLPP-NF)	0	0%
	Sierra Leone People's Party - National Front (SLPP-NF)	0	0%
	Sierra Leone People's Party - National Front (SLPP-NF)	0	0%
	Sierra Leone People's Party - National Front (SLPP-NF)	0	0%
	Sierra Leone People's Party - National Front (SLPP-NF)	0	0%
	Sierra Leone People's Party - National Front (SLPP-NF)	0	0%
	Sierra Leone People's Party - National Front (SLPP-NF)	0	0%
Second Batch	Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP)	10	100%
	Sierra Leone All Stars Party (SLASP)	0	0%
	Sierra Leone People's Party - United Front (SLPP-UF)	0	0%
	Sierra Leone People's Party - National Front (SLPP-NF)	0	0%
	Sierra Leone People's Party - National Front (SLPP-NF)	0	0%
	Sierra Leone People's Party - National Front (SLPP-NF)	0	0%
	Sierra Leone People's Party - National Front (SLPP-NF)	0	0%
	Sierra Leone People's Party - National Front (SLPP-NF)	0	0%
	Sierra Leone People's Party - National Front (SLPP-NF)	0	0%
	Sierra Leone People's Party - National Front (SLPP-NF)	0	0%

NOTEWORTHY



THE UNIFIER MAGAZINE

PEOPLE • ISSUES • IDEAS

POWER TO WOMEN



International Women's Day 2024
#InspireInclusion

THE UNIFIER WOMEN AROUND THE GLOBE

DRIVING CHANGE IN SIERRA LEONE P20

Plus

WHY WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP MATTERS IN SIERRA LEONE P15

A CALL TO ACTION FOR SIERRA LEONE'S WOMEN P12

AND MORE



COMMENTARY P32

INBOX P4

LETTERS & MORE



International Women's Day



Happy



International
Women's
Day



#InspireInclusion



#IWD2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS



3	EDITOR'S NOTE Issue 3: A Nation At Crossroads. Plus, Many More.
4	INBOX Readers' letters commenting on articles.
7	NOTEWORTHY PROJECT SIERRA LEONE An Initiative to Help Fight the Devastating Effect of Kush in Sierra Leone
10	PEOPLE: DR. RICHARD KONTEH'S PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT
14	ISSUES: BEYOND CELEBRATING, TOWARDS EMPOWERING: A CALL TO ACTION FOR SIERRA LEONE'S WOMEN By Abioseh Kamara-Pieh
15	IDEAS: WHY WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP MATTERS IN SIERRA LEONE
20	PEOPLE: ISATU Z. KONTEH Empowering Narratives - A Catalyst for Change
24	PEOPLE: VALDA KAIKAI A Symphony of Leadership and Purpose, Inspiring Change in Sierra Leone
27	PEOPLE: HUMU KNOX From Culinary Dreams to Inspiring Reality in Sierra Leone
30	ISSUES: ELECTIONS SPECIAL A three-part elections special series unveiling new statistical data and analysis
32	COMMENTARY: TRIBALISM A cancer that Destroys a Nation's Wellbeing



WELCOME TO THE

THE UNIFIER MAGAZINE



ISSUE 4

Inspire Inclusion

Dear Readers,

As we usher in the vibrant hues of March, The Unifier Magazine proudly unveils a tapestry of narratives that resonate with the essence of empowerment, resilience, and the unwavering spirit of inclusivity. This edition is dedicated to the global celebration of International Women's Day 2024 under the resonant theme - "Inspire Inclusion."

In a world where diversity is our greatest strength, we embark on a journey to amplify the voices of The Unifier Women around the globe. These voices transcend borders, break barriers, and inspire change. Our pages come alive with stories of women who have not only paved their paths but have become architects of empowerment, in small or big ways, leaving an indelible mark on the fabric of society.

From the corridors of power to the grassroots, we delve into the narratives of those who have championed causes, shattered ceilings, and stood tall against adversity. "Inspire Inclusion" is not just a theme; it's a call to action, a reminder that every story, every perspective, and every voice matters.

Join us as we explore the myriad facets of women's struggles, achievements, journeys, and collective power in shaping a more inclusive world. From educational initiatives fostering growth to artistic endeavours echoing cultural impact, we celebrate some of the Unifier Women who embody the strength of diversity, inclusion and unity.

As you turn the pages, you'll encounter tales of courage, resilience, and the unyielding determination that defines the women we feature.

We invite you to participate in this celebration by reading, sharing, reflecting, and engaging in conversations that ignite change, inclusion and unity.

Thank you for being part of The Unifier Magazine's journey. Together, let's inspire inclusion, elevate narratives, and celebrate the phenomenal strength of women that enriches our world.

Editor

Albert Mackoty



INBOX



Dear Editor,

I trust this message finds you well. I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for the exceptional editorial work showcased in the third issue of Unifier Magazine, particularly the insightful exploration of Sierra Leone's current narrative under the theme "A Nation at Crossroads: Divisions, Cost, Impact, and the Way to Unity." As a reader, I appreciate the magazine's dedication to delving into the multifaceted aspects of Sierra Leone's journey, offering not just a critical analysis of challenges but also presenting opportunities for collective growth and progress. It is evident that the editorial team's efforts extend beyond informative reporting to actively contributing to the national discourse.

Susan Banya

Mr. Editor,

Alpha Bah's commentary serves as an eye-opener, providing a thoughtful analysis of the current political landscape in Sierra Leone. The depth of insight, coupled with a clear articulation of the distressing levels of political contestation and divide, offers readers a valuable perspective on the challenges our nation faces. The inclusion of such commentaries in the Unifier Magazine underscores the publication's commitment to fostering open dialogue and critical discourse on issues of national importance. Alpha Bah's contribution adds significant value to this commitment by shedding light on the political dynamics in Sierra Leone.

Kady Stevens

Hello,

I am writing to share my perspective on the recent feature, "Sierra Leone: Beyond the Beaches - Unveiling a Hidden Gem in West Africa," and respectfully express my disagreement with the notion that Sierra Leone is currently ready for a significant influx of tourism.

While I appreciate the effort to present an alternative narrative about Sierra Leone, I believe it is crucial to approach the subject of tourism readiness with a degree of caution. The complexities associated with developing a sustainable and responsible tourism industry in any nation, Sierra Leone included, demand careful consideration.

Several factors contribute to my reservations about Sierra Leone being ready for tourism at this juncture. The existing infrastructure, including transportation, accommodations, and essential services, may not yet meet the standards necessary to support a thriving tourism sector. Adequate facilities, safety measures, and a robust hospitality industry are integral components of an inviting and secure tourist destination.

Furthermore, environmental sustainability is a critical aspect that should not be overlooked. Uncontrolled tourism can have adverse effects on ecosystems, wildlife, and local communities. Ensuring that Sierra Leone is prepared to manage and mitigate these potential impacts is essential for the long-term well-being of the nation and its people.

I encourage the editorial team to delve deeper into the challenges and considerations associated with promoting tourism in Sierra Leone. Engaging in a

more nuanced discussion about the necessary preparations, addressing potential obstacles, and outlining a sustainable roadmap for the future will contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of this complex issue. Thank you for providing a platform for diverse perspectives, and I look forward to continued discussions that contribute positively to the national discourse.

Markus Brown.

Thank you for the recent feature in Unifier Magazine, titled "A Nation at Crossroads: The Divisions, The Costs, The Impact, and The Path to Unity in Sierra Leone."

The depth and thoroughness with which this feature delves into the multifaceted dynamics shaping Sierra Leone's current narrative are truly commendable. The title alone captures the essence of a nation grappling with challenges and seeking a collective way forward. As I navigated through the pages, I was struck by the nuanced analysis, the poignant insights, and the balanced portrayal of the divisions that demand our attention.

Victor Alie

Thank You for your emails and feedback.

LIMITED EDITION
AVAILABLE NOW



PROJECT SIERRA LEONE

An initiative to help fight the devastating effect of kush on our youth

ORDER NOW

WWW.PROJECTSIERRALEONE.ORG



PROJECT SIERRA LEONE:

An Initiative to Help Fight the Devastating Effect of Kush in Sierra Leone

By Albert Mackoty



Project Sierra Leone: www.projectsirr Leone.org

In the heart of Sierra Leone, a silent battle against drug abuse threatens the future of its youth. It's a battle against an insidious enemy that threatens the youth, families, and the very fabric of communities. That enemy is **kush**—a synthetic drug that creeps into lives, leaving devastation in its wake.

Project Sierra Leone steps in, not with weapons, but with threads of hope.

This online platform offers more than just apparel; it's a bridge connecting supporters to Sierra Leone's vibrant youth. Their simple yet impactful t-shirts and hats go beyond fashion, each design signifying resilience, unity, and progress.

Every purchase becomes a catalyst for change, directly funding initiatives supporting education, skill development, and community projects for

young people. Project Sierra Leone doesn't just raise funds; it empowers.

More than just a store, Project Sierra Leone is a movement. They support existing organizations on the ground, ensuring crucial resources and opportunities reach the youth. Their ultimate goal is to establish a foundation dedicated to empowering young people with the tools and resources they need to thrive.

You are not buying a t-shirt from ProjectSierraLeone because you need a t-shirt or a cap. You probably have lot of them, or you can easily buy one for cheap from your nearby store or mall. but because you care to help the youth of Sierra Leone. You buy because you want to help.



THANK FOR MAKING OUR WORLD A BETTER PLACE!

Each sale is a donation that will greatly help Project Sierra Leone's mission. With every sale, ProjectSierraLeone will be able to provide the following for Sierra Leone's youth:

- **Educational initiatives:** Scholarships, after-school programs, and access to technology.
- **Entrepreneurship training:** Providing young people with the skills and resources to start their own businesses.
- **Community development projects:** Investing in facilities and initiatives that benefit the broader youth population.



SPECIAL LIMITED 63RD INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY EDITION

As you celebrate Sierra Leone's 63rd Independence Anniversary, embrace the vibrant spirit of celebration with these exclusive limited edition T-shirts, dedicated to all peace and unity-loving Sierra Leoneans.

These shirts are more than fabric; they are a canvas of hope.

As we mark this sixty-three years milestone, let every thread remind us of the resilience that defines us, the unity that binds us, and the love that lights our path. When you buy one, please wear it with pride and purpose – **Happy 63rd Independence, Sierra Leone!** 🇸🇪💙

If you would like to contribute further, to become a board member, or a partner, contact them by email at support@projectsierraleone.org

Please also talk to your family and friends about this cause!

Visiting Makeni City?

Stop by Makama Lodge



1 Konteh Drive, Makeni; Phone: +232 79 121651

Email: info@makamalodge.com; Website: www.makamalodge.com

RELAX REFRESH REPEAT



DR. RICHARD KONTEH'S PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Our national history is marked by colonialism and, more recently, the brutal civil war of 1991-2002. These events have left deep scars on our nation's social fabric, exacerbating gender inequalities. Despite these challenges, between 2007 and 2018, we emerged from the ashes with the determination to rebuild our social, economic, and physical infrastructure.

The current reality is that women in Sierra Leone, constituting 52% of the population, face discriminatory practices related to customary law, including marriage, divorce, inheritance, and family relations.

Limited Participation in All Spheres of Society:

Women in Sierra Leone face significant barriers to participation in all spheres of society, including politics, business, and decision-making processes. This limited participation is rooted in deep-seated gender stereotypes and

cultural norms that perpetuate the marginalization of these groups.

Political Participation: Women hold only about 15% of seats in parliament, and their representation in local government is even lower. This low representation stems from factors such as societal expectations that limit women's involvement in politics, limited access to political networks, and gender-based violence.

Economic Participation: The Women of Sierra Leone's economic participation is constrained by limited access to education and employment opportunities and gender-biased hiring practices. Women are often relegated to informal and low-paying sectors, limiting their economic independence and decision-making power.

Decision-Making Processes: Our women in Sierra Leone are often excluded from decision-making processes at both the household and community levels. This lack of participation perpetuates their marginalization and



DR. RICHARD KONTEH

hinders their ability to influence decisions that affect their lives.

Gender Stereotypes: Gender stereotypes are deeply ingrained in our Sierra Leonean society, perpetuating harmful gender roles that limit the opportunities and choices of women and girls. These stereotypes often portray women as primarily responsible for domestic duties and childcare, while men are seen as the breadwinners and decision-makers.

Gender Roles and Expectations:

Societal expectations confine women to traditional roles, limiting their opportunities to pursue education, careers, and leadership positions. These expectations also perpetuate gender-based violence and discrimination.

Limited Access to Education: Girls are often prioritized for domestic duties and early marriage, leading to high

dropout rates and limited access to education. This lack of education hinders their ability to compete in the workforce and make informed decisions about their lives.

Gender-Based Violence: Gender stereotypes contribute to the normalization of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, female genital mutilation (FGM), and forced child marriage. These harmful practices violate women's rights and limit their ability to live freely and without fear.

Limited Access to Education and Employment Opportunities:

Women in Sierra Leone face significant barriers to accessing quality education and employment opportunities. These barriers hinder their ability to develop their skills, contribute to the economy, and achieve their full potential.

Limited Access to Quality Education: Sierra Leone's education quality varies widely, with schools in rural areas often lacking adequate resources and qualified teachers. This disparity limits the educational opportunities of women, particularly those in rural communities.

Limited Employment

Opportunities: The youth unemployment rate in Sierra Leone is over 35%, reflecting the limited availability of jobs and the mismatch between skills and labour market demands. Girls make up the majority of this 35% youth unemployment rate. This lack of employment opportunities hinders women's economic independence and their ability to contribute to the country's development.

Lack of Financial Resources:

Women in Sierra Leone often face a lack of financial resources, limiting their access to education, healthcare, and other essential services. This lack of financial independence perpetuates their vulnerability and hinders their ability to make informed decisions about their lives.

Limited Access to Capital:

Women have limited access to financial resources, such as loans and credit, due to societal norms that restrict their control over finances and property ownership. This lack of access to capital hinders their ability to start businesses and achieve economic independence.

Poverty and Economic

Vulnerability: Poverty is a

significant challenge for women and girls in Sierra Leone, limiting their access to necessities and essential services. This economic vulnerability makes them more susceptible to exploitation and gender-based violence.

Inspire Inclusion

The theme of International Women's Day 2024 is Inspire Inclusion. We forge a better world when we inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion. And when women themselves are inspired to be included, there's a sense of belonging, relevance, and empowerment. Sierra Leone stands at the cusp of transformation, where every woman's voice matters, and every step toward equality reverberates through generations.

Every Saturday night, Dr. Konteh shares his views and insights on the Unifier Radio and TV's "The Unifier Hour" Show. The show airs across various social media channels include YouTube, Facebook, X and LinkedIn. The online radio can also be accessed on The Unifier website www.dunifier.com.





[LIVE]

THE UNIFIER HOUR

WITH

DR. RICHARD KONTEH

EVERY SATURDAY 

9:00 PM (Sierra Leone & UK Time)

4:00 PM (EST); 1:00 PM (PST) Canada & USA



DR. RICHARD KONTEH

 **HOT BUTTON TOPICS ON** 
THE APC PARTY 
& SIERRA LEONE 

PLUS

**A Panel
Discussion**

TUNE IN

WWW.UNIFIERRADIO.COM OR WWW.DUNIFIER.COM



WHERE & HOW to Listen Live on Saturday:

- **Radio Link (Mobile)** <https://s5.radio.co/s44dab6caf/low>
- **YouTube Live:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiCs1UdqIbLhrOpSj0QeYqg>
- **Facebook Live:** <https://www.facebook.com/richardkontehDUnifier>
- **X (Twitter) Live:** <https://twitter.com/DUnifier>
- **Website:** <https://www.unifierradio.com/>



[LIVE]

THE UNIFIER PANEL DISCUSSION

 **HOT BUTTON TOPICS** 



EVERY SATURDAY

10:00 PM (Sierra Leone & UK Time)

5:00 PM (EST); 2:00 PM (PST) Canada & USA

THE APC PARTY 
& SIERRA LEONE 

TUNE IN

WWW.DUNIFIER.COM



WHERE & HOW to Listen Live on Saturday:

- **Radio Link (Mobile)** <https://s5.radio.co/s44dab6caf/low>
- **YouTube Live:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiCs1UdqIbLhrOpSj0QeYqg>
- **Facebook Live:** <https://www.facebook.com/richardkontehDUnifier>
- **X (Twitter) Live:** <https://twitter.com/DUnifier>
- **Website:** <https://www.unifierradio.com/>

BEYOND CELEBRATING, TOWARDS EMPOWERING: A CALL TO ACTION FOR SIERRA LEONE'S WOMEN

By Abioseh Kamara-Pieh



Dear Women of Sierra Leone, International Women's Day 2024 is upon us, and while it's crucial to acknowledge the strides we've made – from girls' education to political participation – we must go beyond mere commemoration. This celebration is a springboard for action, a rallying cry for us to claim our rightful place in shaping Sierra Leone's future.

Yes, the reality stings. Despite our capabilities and efforts, we remain largely absent from the decision-making tables in politics, science, technology, and

beyond. This isn't unique to Sierra Leone; it echoes across continents, a pervasive narrative whispered in Latin America, the Middle East, Asia, Europe, and even the United States.

But there's a tide changing, a wave of empowered women rising. Sierra Leone, now basking in the spotlight of burgeoning democracy, needs this wave more than ever. Yet, skepticism exists. Some doubt our capacity, labelling us capable homemakers but not visionary leaders, child-bearers, not architects of progress. Our names remain absent from leadership rosters, and our voices are unheard in critical discussions.

But these are mere roadblocks, not insurmountable obstacles. The revolutionary spirit, the visionary spark, the architectural prowess – they lie within us. Yes, the climb will be steep, demanding a tenfold effort to overcome ingrained biases and prejudices. We will be underestimated, underrated, and perhaps even ridiculed. But

remember, history thrives on the shoulders of those who dared to defy expectations. So, women - sisters and mothers of Sierra Leone, today's call is not for mere participation but for ownership.

Take charge: Shed the diffidence and self-doubt. Claim your space, raise your voice, and demand to be heard.

Be "selfish": Don't shy away from pursuing your dreams with laser-sharp focus. Your ambitions are not burdens but stepping stones to a more equitable future.

Work hard, double hard: Mediocrity has no place in this revolution. Hone your skills, expand your knowledge, and strive for excellence in all you do.

Don't expect tokens: Recognition must be earned, not handed out. Let your achievements speak for themselves.

Be creative: Challenge the status quo with innovative solutions

and fresh perspectives. The world needs your unique voice.

Don't be afraid to be yourself:

Authenticity is your power. Embrace your individuality and let it shine through.

Mentor others: The strength of this movement lies in its collective force. Lift others up, share your knowledge, and empower the next generation of female leaders.

Seek help when needed:

Collaboration is key. Don't hesitate to reach out for support, guidance, and partnership.

Say "no" to common favours:

Don't let societal expectations and gender stereotypes burden you. Prioritize your goals and say "no" when they don't align with your vision.

Remember, sisters, you are the architects of the future we envision. Build the Sierra Leone we deserve, the one where girls dream without limitations and women lead with unwavering confidence. Be the inspiration, the changemakers, the driving force behind progress. The Unifier stands with you, celebrating your achievements and walking alongside you in this unwavering fight for equality.



This International Women's Day, let's move beyond celebration and step into action.

Let's rewrite the narrative, shatter the glass ceilings, and build a Sierra Leone where every woman can thrive, lead, and reach her full potential.

This is our time. Let's rise together.

In solidarity,

Mrs. Abioseh Kamara-Pieh

Abioseh Kamara-Pieh is a Family Nurse Practitioner-BC, an entrepreneur, and a Minister of the Gospel. She resides in the USA with her family - handsome husband and two beautiful girls.



LEONE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY



Where Every Child Thrives, Learns, and Leads with
Excellence from Preschool to High School – Nurturing
Tomorrow's Leaders Today!

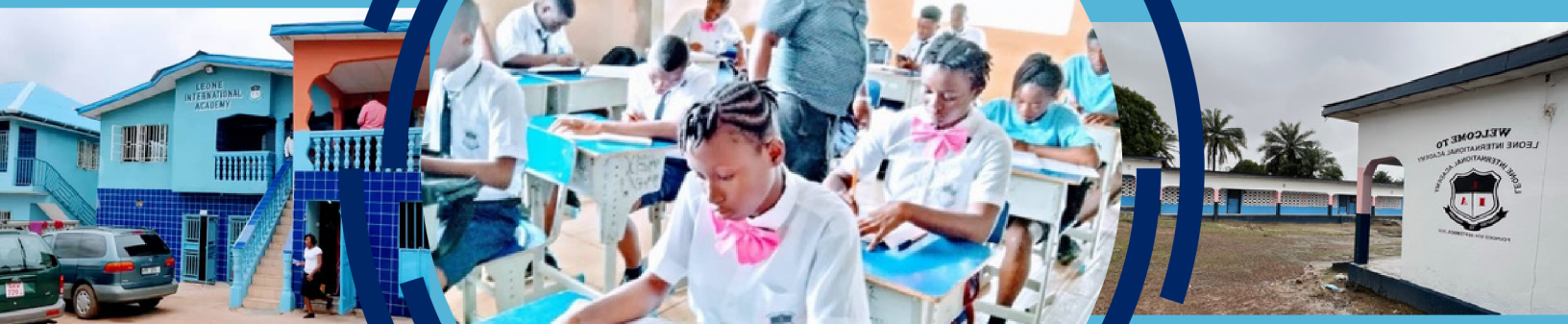
CAMPUSES AND LOCATIONS

1

3 Momoh Drive Off Kabasa Lodge,
Juba Hill, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Phone: +232-79-549080
Email: leoneintacademy@gmail.com

2

Masuba, Makeni City, Sierra Leone
Phone: +232-79-549080
Email: leoneintacademy@gmail.com



REGISTER NOW

+232-79-549080

WHY WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP MATTERS IN SIERRA LEONE

By I. Z. Konteh



As the world converges to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8, 2024, the theme "Inspire Inclusion" echoes loudly, urging us to reflect on the pivotal role of women's leadership in Sierra Leone.

According to the UN Women Data Hub, approximately 48.08% of the total labour force in Sierra Leone consists of women. 39.7% of employed women in Sierra Leone are living below the international poverty line. Despite having more women (51%) than men (49%), Sierra Leone's Gender Inequality Index (GII) value is 0.644, ranking 153 out of 162 countries in terms of gender equality. The literacy rate for women aged 15 and above is 17.5%, and approximately 19.8%

of girls are out of school at the primary and lower secondary education levels. These statistics have staggering implications for our nation.

In the context of "Inspire Inclusion," women's leadership emerges not just as a necessity but as a transformative force capable of reshaping the narrative of our nation.

Therefore, there is a pressing need for joint action across five key areas:

Investing in Women: A Human Right and a Necessity

Gender equality is not merely a moral imperative; it is a fundamental human right and a strategic investment in the future of Sierra Leone. Time is running out, as stated by the theme, to address the greatest human r

ights challenge of our time. Studies consistently demonstrate that empowering women leads to economic growth, social stability, and sustainable development - benefits that resonate throughout society and uplift everyone.

Ending Poverty: Women as Agents of Change

The COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing conflicts around the world have pushed 75 million more people into severe poverty since 2020. This disproportionately impacts women and girls, with projections suggesting that over 342 million will remain trapped in poverty by 2030 unless we take immediate action. With 39.7% of employed women in Sierra Leone living below the international poverty line, many

more women and girls will be pushed into poverty by 2030.

Women are not simply statistics; they are powerful agents of change. Investing in their education, healthcare, and economic opportunities will directly translate to breaking the cycle of poverty for themselves and their families and communities.

Investing in Women: Beyond Words, Towards Action

Investing in women goes beyond mere rhetoric. We must ensure that gender-responsive financing mechanisms are implemented. With conflicts and rising prices expected to force 75% of countries to cut public spending by 2025, this is crucial to protect essential services primarily catering to women and girls, such as healthcare and education.

Shifting the Paradigm: A Green Economy and Care Society

Our current economic system is exploitative and unsustainable, and disproportionately affects women. As we strive to create a brighter future, let us explore a paradigm shift towards a green economy and care society. This emerging model prioritizes environmental sustainability,

social justice, and gender equality, all areas where women's leadership is crucial. By amplifying women's voices and creating an economy that values care work traditionally performed by women, we can build a more inclusive and sustainable future for all.

Supporting Feminist Change-Makers:

Catalysts of Progress

While feminist organizations lead the charge in advocating for and achieving gender equality, they remain chronically under-resourced. They receive a mere 0.13% of official development assistance. This is unacceptable. On International Women's Day, we must pledge to support these change-makers financially and politically, amplifying their efforts and ensuring they have the resources needed to bring about lasting change.

A Collective Action, a Shared Future

Investing in women's leadership in Sierra Leone is not simply an option; it is a necessity for a more just, prosperous, and sustainable future. Let us transform our challenges into opportunities by taking joint action across these five key areas: recognizing the human rights dimension, ending poverty, ensuring gender-

responsive financing, shifting towards a green economy and care society, and supporting feminist change-makers. Together, we can weave a future where women in Sierra Leone inspire inclusion and lead the way for a prosperous and unity country.

How will you inspire inclusion Today?

1. Advocate for Women Participation
2. Promote Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
3. Raise Awareness on Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
4. Support Community-Based Initiatives
5. Celebrate Diversity and Cultural Heritage
6. Volunteer and Engage in Service Projects

This International Women's Day, let us join hands and pledge to work together to benefit all by investing in women's leadership in Sierra Leone.

Happy International Women's Day! #InspireInclusion

VISITING FREETOWN?

Check out



Sierra Guesthouse

Your Home Away From Home



UNWIND TO REVITALIZE

1 Kamara Drive
Freetown, Hill Station
Phone: +232-74-337-400

Email: hello@sierraguesthouse.com; Website: sierraguesthouse.com

ISATU Z. KONTEH

EMPOWERING NARRATIVES - A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

The Unifier Magazine



Within the complex fabric of women's empowerment, Madam Isatu Zama Konteh emerges as a luminary, illuminating paths of inspiration and catalyzing transformative change. Rooted in the belief that authentic connections foster collective growth, she advocates for open and honest conversations, igniting a beacon of empowerment that resonates far beyond her immediate circles.

Championing Authentic Connections:

Madam I. Z. Konteh, a devoted advocate for gender equality and community development, radiates a passion for meaningful human connections. Her fervent desire to encourage open dialogues stems from a profound belief that authenticity is the cornerstone of personal and societal growth. Through her advocacy, she sparks conversations that go beyond the surface, creating a space where individuals can authentically share their stories, fostering a culture of understanding and collective progress.

A Beacon of Hope for Women's Empowerment:

With a Master's Degree in Rural Development, a Bachelor's Degree in Education, and a Higher Teacher's Certificate, Madam I. Z. Konteh exemplifies

the multifaceted strength of women in leadership. Over two decades, she has dedicated herself to the cause of women's empowerment, weaving a narrative of resilience and determination. As a mother of two, she embodies the principles she advocates, demonstrating that women can excel in various roles, both personally and professionally.



GEKO-Sierra Leone: Empowering Lives, Transforming Futures:

Madam I. Z. Konteh co-founded Geko-Sierra Leone, a national NGO with a global vision. This organization, affiliated with Geo Unna in Germany, serves as a catalyst for women's empowerment and addresses the challenges faced



by disadvantaged young boys and girls. Through her leadership as Executive Director, Geko-Sierra Leone has been a force for positive change, helping thousands overcome adversities and offering a lifeline for brighter futures.

Leadership Anchored in Excellence:

In her diverse roles as a manager, consultant, director, teacher, administrator, mother, and wife, Madam I. Z. Konteh epitomizes excellence in leadership. Committed to bringing out the best in every



person, she fosters hope, solicits input, and establishes relationships based on confidence and trust. Her leadership style emphasizes the transformative power of collaboration and the potential for collective success.

A Faithful Journey:

Madam I. Z. Konteh's unwavering faith has been the guiding force throughout her journey. As a seasoned member of the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone, she has served in various capacities, breaking barriers as the first female lay leader of the Michael Dean Mueller Wesleyan Church in Lumley, Freetown. Her faith is not just a personal anchor but a source of inspiration for her service to the Christian community.



Dedication to Education:

A passionate educator, Madam I. Z. Konteh's impact extends to the realm of education. From teaching in primary and secondary schools to her current role as the school administrator of Leone International Academy, she supervises the smooth running of the academy, ensuring excellent results at various academic levels. Her commitment to education aligns with her broader vision of empowering future generations.

A Beacon of Inspiration:

Madam Isatu Z. Konteh stands as a testament to the extraordinary impact ordinary individuals can have on society. Her advocacy, fueled by curiosity and a dedication to uplifting the disadvantaged, led to the creation of Geko-Sierra Leone. Her message to women resonates with strength and resilience, "I believe you can do and be whomever you want to be with hard work, dedication, and prayers. Never give up! Keep your heart open to all the goodness that the universe brings. Support other women!"

Madam Isatu Z. Konteh's story is not just one of personal achievement but a narrative that inspires and empowers, creating ripples of positive change for women and the community at large.



“What matters the most to me in my everyday life is how we connect with one another. That’s why I encourage open and honest conversations — because when we help each other be authentic, we can help each other grow as individuals and as a society.

Let’s share our stories. I look forward to getting to meet and know you more.”

Madam Isatu Zama Konteh is an engaged advocate for gender equality and community development. She holds a Master's Degree in Rural Development, a Bachelor's Degree in Education, and a Higher Teacher's Certificate. Over the past 22 years, she has been involved with various causes as a consultant, director, manager, speaker and mentor, including the US Peace Corps, Mano River Union, women's and girls' rights and the role of women in rural development.

LIMITED EDITION

AVAILABLE NOW



PURCHASE NOW AT
WWW.PROJECTSIERRALEONE.ORG

VALDA KAIKAI

**A SYMPHONY OF LEADERSHIP AND PURPOSE,
INSPIRING CHANGE IN SIERRA LEONE**

The Unifier Magazine



Valda Kaikai, a name synonymous with empowerment and unwavering spirit, is more than just an executive leader and educator. She is a weaver of dreams, crafting a tapestry of hope and opportunity for women and communities in Sierra Leone.

Valda's journey is rooted in a profound question: what defines a woman? Is it the physical form or the indomitable spirit that pushes back against societal constraints, fights for gender equality, and champions the rights of the vulnerable? For Valda, the answer lies in women's collective power, which shines brightest when united in purpose.

This belief is at the heart of The Unifier Women, a network that has fuelled Valda's vision for the women of Sierra Leone. The Unifier Women are remarkable women scattered across the globe who are united by an unwavering commitment to uplift and empower others. They reach out, building meaningful connections and fostering a network of support. This network becomes a fertile ground where mentorship blossoms, camaraderie flourishes, and collective strength takes root.

Through The Unifier Women, Valda and her companions

leverage their collective power to spark positive change. They channel their efforts towards several crucial initiatives:

- **Empowering families:** By providing access to life-sustaining water and other essential resources, they breathe life into communities, ensuring dignity and stability.
- **Shaping the future:** Recognizing women as the guiding lights for the next generation, they cultivate a sense of purpose and responsibility in young minds, encouraging productive engagement and commitment to community development.
- **Combating poverty:** They strive to create a safety net ensuring no family goes hungry, alleviating immediate hardship and fostering hope for a brighter future.
- **Protecting the girl child:** Recognizing the detrimental effects of poverty, particularly on young girls, Valda and her companions work tirelessly to build community capacity, offering education and support to combat early marriage and safeguard the potential of the next generation.

Like countless other women, Valda's story is a testament to the immeasurable power of unity and collective and individual action.

This International Women's Day, her message rings loud and clear: Invest in Women, Invest in Progress.

Join The Unifier Women. Don't just make a difference, be the difference.

Valda Kaikai's story isn't just a single woman's story; it's a symphony of voices, a chorus of hope, and a powerful reminder that together, women can weave a tapestry of change, one thread at a time.

Valda Kaikai, nee Sufian-Kargbo is an Executive Leader and Adult Educator specializing in Non-profit Society Governance, Management, Operation and Curriculum Development based on emerging needs and trends for In-person and Online workplace Training.



Building a bright future for Our Youth

- EDUCATION
- MUSIC
- SPORTS



LEARN MORE

Email: info@rk7foundation.org
www.rk7foundation.org

DONATE



HUMU KNOX

**FROM CULINARY DREAMS TO INSPIRING REALITY
IN SIERRA LEONE**

The Unifier Magazine



Humu Knox's story is more than just a delicious journey of flavoured yogurts and cupcakes. It's a testament to the unwavering spirit and entrepreneurial potential of women in Sierra Leone. Fueled by a passion for baking and a yearning for high-quality treats, Humu embarked on a quest to fill a void in the market, refusing to settle for anything less than her own standards of creativity and taste.

Her first hurdle, however, was a lack of formal training. Unfazed, Humu channelled the resourcefulness often inherent in women entrepreneurs. She perfected recipes for quality yogurt and cakes based on her sister's expertise and her relentless experimentation. This determination and willingness to learn are hallmarks of the many women who defy limitations and carve their own paths.

Humu understood that passion alone wouldn't suffice. She sought to solidify her business foundation and joined the Organization of Women Entrepreneurs (OWNERS). This organization, fostering women's empowerment through entrepreneurship, provided her with invaluable skills in areas like quality management, finance, and leadership. Mentorship further equipped

her with industry-specific knowledge and the crucial confidence to navigate the business world.

With newfound knowledge and unwavering drive, Humu launched "Kol Hat Frozen Yogurt." Her strategic location and focus on quality proved successful, with her sales growing by 15% within a short period. She even began securing contracts for parties, a testament to the growing demand for her delicious creations. Humu's story exemplifies how women when empowered with knowledge and resources, can thrive and contribute to their communities by creating jobs and fostering local businesses.

However, the journey wasn't without challenges. The Ebola crisis presented a significant setback, yet Humu's resilience, another key trait of countless women entrepreneurs, allowed her to maintain her existing distribution network.

Humu recognizes the collective strength of women. She believes that collaborating and supporting one another is crucial for overcoming obstacles and achieving sustainable success. She encourages women to embrace their courage, perseverance, and tenacity, the very qualities that propel them

forward despite societal expectations and limitations.

Her journey is an inspiration not only for women aspiring to entrepreneurship but also for anyone facing challenges. Humu Knox's story is a delicious reminder that with dedication, resourcefulness, and the support of empowering organizations, even the most ambitious dreams can be whipped up into success, inspiring others to do the same.

As Humu looks towards the future, her goals include expanding her distribution network and acquiring new equipment. However, her vision extends beyond personal growth. She advocates for continued training, counselling, and funding for women entrepreneurs, recognizing that investing in their potential creates a ripple effect of positive change for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Humu Knox's story is a call to action. It's a story of flavour, resilience, and, most importantly, empowering women to rise, lead, and create a future as sweet and satisfying as their creations.



SHOW SOME LOVE

PROJECT SIERRA LEONE



BUY NOW



projectsierraleone.org

ELECTIONS SPECIAL

UNVEILED ANALYSIS - PT2

YOUR TAKE, YOUR OPINION



*Elections 2023: Commonwealth Observer Group in Sierra Leone
Photo by Commonwealth Secretariat*

DISCLAIMER: This article contains information obtained from an anonymous source. We cannot guarantee its accuracy or completeness due to the inherent limitations of relying on anonymous sources. We urge readers to consider this information cautiously and consult other sources for corroboration.

Sierra Leone's recent elections in June 2023 have captured

domestic and international attention. While the official results have been declared, concerns linger about potential irregularities, particularly surrounding the lack of transparency in the tabulation process.

In our previous publication of February 1, we brought you the

first part (part 1) of a three-part Elections Special Series from an anonymous source presentation.

In **Part 1: Regional and Stronghold Analysis**, we analyzed the anonymous source presentation of election results from 2007 to 2023, focusing on the recently concluded 2023 elections.

They claimed the presentation aims to shed light on potential systemic issues and contribute to a more informed understanding of Sierra Leone's electoral landscape by uncovering trends and patterns across these elections.

They also claim the objective of this presentation goes beyond simply addressing the secrecy surrounding the 2023 tabulation process and seeks to uncover

any broader patterns of irregularities that may have influenced past and present election outcomes.

Through this analysis, they hope the material will contribute to strengthening Sierra Leone's democratic institutions and ensuring the integrity of future elections.

In this publication, we will continue with **Part 2: Analysis of**

The First and Second Batches of the 2023 Election Results. Take a curious look at the table below. As you try to make sense of this data, consider the following questions:

- Where do you see significant deviations between the first 60% of the polling stations' Results and the second 40% of the polling stations' Results in the 2023 elections?
- If there are deviations, do they raise any concerns about potential irregularities?

ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST AND SECOND BATCHES OF THE 2023 ELECTION RESULTS

		The first 60% of the polling stations Results					The second 40% of the polling stations Result				
DISTRICT	100% Stations	First batch 60% stations	60% polling stations Range of Registration Figures	Valid Votes	Turnout Rate	Comment	Second batch of 40% of the Stations	40% polling station Range of Registration figures	Valid Votes	Turnout Rate	Comment
Kailahun	679	407	106,195-126,638	153,668	121.34% - 144.70%	Over voted	272	65,695-86,138	30,825	46.92% - 35.79%	Somehow Low
Kenema	1,125	676	177145-208661	208,200	99.78% - 117.53%	Could be over voted	451	109,645-141,161	94,230	85.94% - 66.75%	Normal
Kono	617	370	95714-115522	47,061	40.74% - 49.17%	Normal	246	58514-78322	78,051	133.39% - 99.65%	Could be over voted
Bombali	720	433	115589-134291	147,041	109.49% - 127.21%	Over voted	288	72089-90791	11,221	15.57% 12.36%	Extremely Low
Falaba	250	150	36513-47657	28,987	60.82% - 79.39%	Normal	100	21513-32657	26,305	122.27% - 80.55%	Could be over voted
Koinadugu	309	185	45918-57591	36,038	62.58% - 78.48%	Normal	124	27618-39291	18,772	67.97% - 47.78%	Somehow Low
Tonkolili	728	437	115631-135394	75,507	55.77% - 65.30%	Normal	292	72131-91894	80,502	111.61% - 87.60%	Could be over voted
Kambia	548	328	84264-101078	97,730	96.69% - 115.98%	Could be over voted	219	51564-68378	12,757	24.74% - 18.66%	Extremely Low
Karene	358	215	54588-67008	66,984	99.96% - 122.71%	Could be over voted	144	33288-45708	6,230	18.72% - 13.63%	Extremely Low
Port Loko	837	502	131831-155590	155,454	99.91% - 117.92%	Could be over voted	334	81431-105190	17,303	21.25% - 16.45%	Extremely Low
Bo	1,109	664	178748-205068	216,593	105.62% - 121.17%	Over Voted	442	112148-138468	73,033	65.12% - 52.74%	Normal
Bonthe	385	230	59296-71149	76,260	107.18% - 128.61%	Over voted	154	36496-48349	26,312	72.10% - 54.42%	Normal
Moyamba	537	322	82061-100441	87,385	87.00% - 106.49%	Could be over voted	215	49961-68341	46,183	92.44% - 67.58%	Normal
Pujehun	422	253	62169-78956	77,114	97.67% - 124.04%	Could be over voted	169	36969-53756	29,587	80.03% - 55.04%	Normal
Western Area Rural	1,162	697	199988-211782	176,250	83.22% - 88.13%	Normal	464	130088-141882	112,136	86.20% - 79.03%	Normal
Western Area Urban	2,046	1,229	348044-372938	261,131	70.02% - 75.03%	Normal	820	225344-250238	214,616	95.24% - 85.76%	Normal
Grand Total:	11,832	7,098		1,911,403			4,734		878,063	70.41%	

Source Data: ECSL announced results; previous elections data

COMMENTARY

TRIBALISM, a cancer that Destroys a Nation's Wellbeing

By Pastor Mohamed Sesay

Many good and capable people have been rejected by society just because they are who they are, which is somewhat of a cancerous act.

It is strange that on many first encounters with strangers, the first thing somebody wants to know about the other person is their tribe.

This, in essence, is for the laying of a tribalism foundation to be used in the future against the supposed odd person.

Many people have lost out on opportunities just because those who were to accord those opportunities just felt that those people were not of a tribe of their liking, a cancerous act that insidiously kills a nation.

This tribal discrimination makes a nation like Sierra Leone lose out on many opportunities.

The Prince of Wales School I attended when I was there knew

nothing about tribe, which, I believe, was one of the reasons for the school's success story for many years.

Because kids are blind to tribalism, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ made this commendation by saying: "Suffer the kids to come unto me and forbid them not." Adults, too, must crave such commendation by taking the places of children and shutting their eyes to whatever is called tribalism.

At the Prince of Wales, we asked other students what house they were in, not which tribe they were in.

We asked about marks scored, not about our tribes.

There was prosperity, and there is still prosperity for the Prince's boys as we keep doing so.

There was a time in this country when people who attended POW

got help wherever they needed it, not because of their tribes but because they were PrinceWaleans.

The "Forward" motto united us as students and past students, not our respective tribes.

Now is the time for the "Unity, Freedom, Justice" motto of Sierra Leone to unite us as a people, not a tribe.

This will breed prosperity for every Sierra Leonean person as we must expect to be accorded help everywhere we find ourselves, not because of our tribe but because Salone na we all yone.

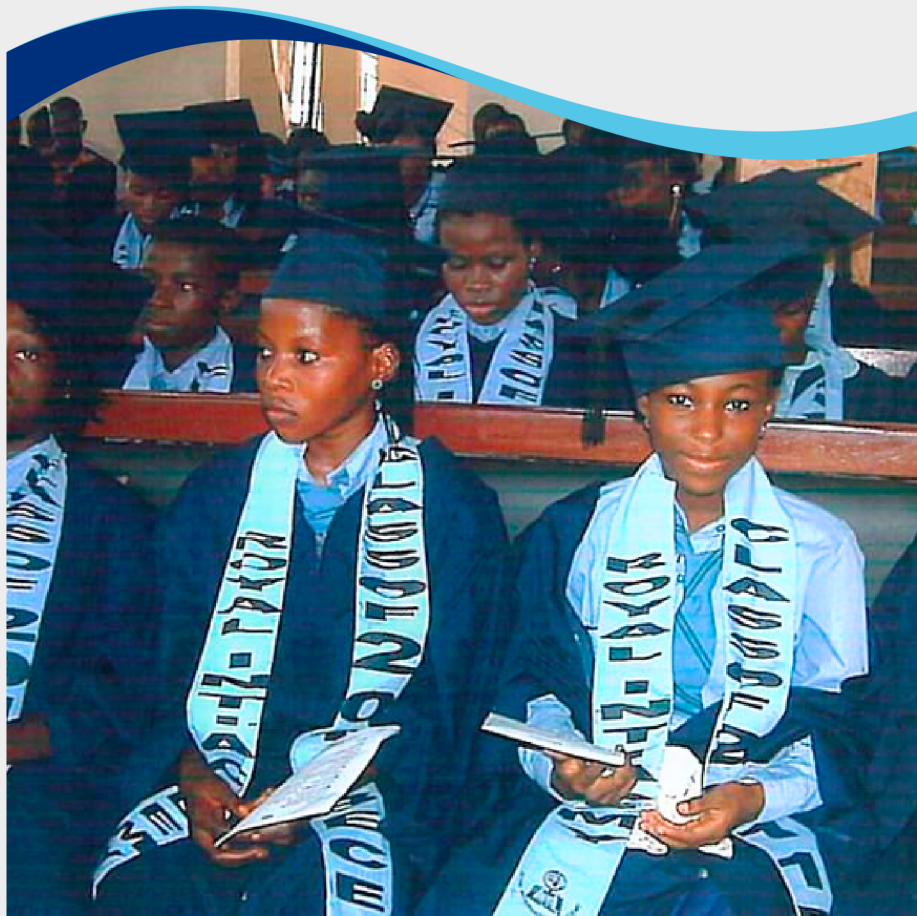
Pastor Mohamed Sesay initially published this piece on WhatsApp on February 10, 2024.

*Join our
amazing
team!*

NEW WAVES — STUDIOS —



Submit your Resume to: newwavesstudio81@gmail.com
Call us on: +232 88 358 410/+232 79 359 640
Visit us @ 3 Point Street Up Dundas Street



ROYAL INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY



Discover a unique academy in philosophy,
structure, and curriculum, where education
meets inspiration for a brighter future, from
Junior Secondary to Senior Secondary school.

CONTACT US

Address:
72B King George Avenue,
Freetown, Sierra Leone

Phone:
+232 76 752442

Email:
info@royalacademysl.com



THE UNIFIER MAGAZINE

Email: info@unifiermagazine.com



+232 75 052135