

THE UNIFIER MAGAZINE

PEOPLE • ISSUES • IDEAS

Counter Terrorism Bill

Why is this Bill bad?

Economic Justice for Sierra Leone

Gloomy Days

Diplomatic Shenanigans

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on the Security Council

Report of the Secretary-General

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Secretary-General wishes to report to the Security Council that Ms. Sonia U. Karim, Mr. A. Mr. Shaekou Allieu, Mr. Mohamadu Ms. Ebunoluwa Tengbe, Mr. Allieu V. Spencer-Coker, Mr. George S. Kamara, and Ms. Agnes Bio have been appointed as alternate representatives to the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, the credentials of the alternate representatives are in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

Cocaine Trafficking
Scandal plus Kush

A Drug Lord
Romance?

WELCOME TO THE

THE UNIFIER MAGAZINE

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2



Inspired by New, Big & Bold Ideas

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the February edition of The Unifier Magazine. In this issue, we delve into a series of provocative and timely topics that reflect the multifaceted challenges and aspirations of Sierra Leone today.

In our feature titled **Counter Terrorism Bill: Why is this Bill bad?** We begin by exploring why this legislation may pose risks to our nation's civil liberties and governance. Our article critically examines its potential to infringe on personal freedoms and stifle open debate—a discussion that is crucial as we balance security concerns with democratic values.

Next, we shift our focus to **Economic Justice for Sierra Leone**. This piece addresses the persistent gap between the rich and the poor, investigating the structural issues that hinder equitable growth. We offer insightful policy recommendations designed to foster a more inclusive economy, ensuring that progress benefits every citizen.

In **Gloomy Days: Diplomatic Shenanigans**, we expose the alarming allegations of cocaine trafficking scandals and the pervasive influence of drugs like kush, which threaten the fabric of our society. This article also touches on the controversial intersection of diplomacy and criminal activity, raising tough questions about accountability and the future of international relations in Sierra Leone.

For those in pursuit of personal growth and success, **For Your Dream, Believing Isn't Enough** challenges readers to move beyond mere aspiration. It is a call to action—reminding us that dedication, hard work, and resilience are essential ingredients for transforming dreams into reality.

Finally, we invite you to engage your mind with a bit of fun and challenge in **Test Your Mental Power: Can You Solve Albert Einstein's Famous House Riddle?** This brain teaser is an exercise in critical thinking and a reminder of the joy and satisfaction that come from intellectual engagement.

In this edition, we explore serious issues with depth and rigor while also celebrating the intellectual curiosity that defines our community.

We hope these articles stimulate thoughtful discussion, inspire actionable change, and provide insight and enjoyment.

Thank you for your continued support of The Unifier Magazine. We look forward to journeying with you as we navigate the complexities of our nation's present and work together toward a brighter future.

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This month, we celebrate the life of the extraordinary leader Dr. Richard Konteh. We celebrate the vision, dedication, and unwavering commitment you have for a brighter future for Sierra Leone. Your leadership continues to inspire many, and your work for the unity, prosperity, and transformation of our nation serves as a guiding light for all of us. On your special day, we wish you joy, peace, and continued success as you work tirelessly to bring about the change Sierra Leone needs. May this year bring you even closer to realizing your vision for our great country. Thank you for being a beacon of hope and a true unifier for Sierra Leone. Here's to another year of leadership, growth, and making a lasting difference! Cheers to you, Dr. Richard Konteh, The Unifier! 🎉🌟

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THE COUNTER TERRORISM BILL 2024



A THREAT TO SIERRA LEONE'S DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS?



In a Press Release on 16th January 2025, the Parliament of Sierra Leone announced that they have debated and committed the Bill entitled; "The Counter Terrorism Act, 2024", to the Legislative committee for further consideration.

According to the that Press Release, the Bill seeks to provide for the establishment of the

National Counter-Terrorism Coordination Committee, to provide for offenses of terrorism and terrorism-related matters, to provide for enforcement measures on terrorist funds and other assets, to provide for the prohibition of financial support to terrorism, and to provide for other related matters.

Presenting the Bill before the

House, the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice Alpha Sesay noted that the Bill before the House is divided into eleven parts that seek to address issues relating to terrorism.

The Parliamentary Chairman of Defence Hon. Alex M. Rogers in his submission, said, "the Bill is vital for the development of the State and urged for a

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parliamentary security collaboration songs with the State.” He pleaded with colleague MPs to speedily pass the Bill into law.

This Counter Terrorism Bill, 2024 has sparked significant concern among Sierra Leoneans, with many questioning its potential impact on fundamental freedoms. Dr. Richard Konteh is one of the leading advocates calling for all citizens, political leaders, civil society organizations, and the international community to stand together in opposing this Counter Terrorism Bill 2024.

In a detailed tweet on his X (Tweeter) handle @DUnifier Dr. Richard Konteh (The Unifier), and on an Open Letter to Hon. Abdul Kargbo, Leader of the APC Parliamentary Caucus, Dr. Konteh strongly condemned the Counter Terrorism Bill 2024, stating it contains provisions that go beyond its intended purpose and strike at the very heart of Sierra Leone’s democratic foundations. The proposed Bill, in its current form represents a grave and dangerous assault on our fundamental civil liberties, including the right to free speech, freedom of the press, freedom of conscience, and the right to peaceful assembly. We believe it is both unconstitutional and counterproductive to national unity and peace.

Dr. Konteh said, “while we all support efforts to protect national security and safeguard the lives of Sierra Leoneans, there is a delicate balance that must be struck between security measures and the protection of our basic rights.”

In his recent open letter to Hon. Abdul Kargbo, Leader of the APC Parliamentary Caucus, titled “Urgent Call to Reject the Counter-Terrorism Bill 2024 in the Current Context,” Dr. Konteh raised several concerns regarding certain clauses in the Bill that could infringe on constitutional rights, particularly the freedoms every Sierra Leonean hold dear—such as the right to protest, the freedom to organize, and the ability to express dissent. These freedoms are fundamental to a democratic society and are enshrined in the 1991 Sierra Leone Constitution (Section 25 and Section 27). They are crucial to maintaining a democratic society where citizens can hold their government accountable and advocate for change., Dr. Konteh added.

Dr. Konteh further highlighted that, the Counter-Terrorism Bill 2024 includes provisions that could potentially criminalize peaceful protests or acts aimed at compelling government action, which are often part of our democratic engagement. “While the goal of combating

terrorism is essential, we must be careful not to create laws that restrict our ability to express ourselves or engage in peaceful activism.”

Dr. Konteh’ Key Concerns are:

1. *Criminalization of Dissent* –

The law grants the government sweeping powers to designate individuals or organizations as “terrorists” based on the mere suspicion of opposition to government policies. This dangerously broad language could lead to the silencing of critics, journalists, and activists who raise legitimate concerns about governance, human rights, and corruption.

2. *Violation of Constitutional Rights* –

Sections of the proposed Bill directly contradict Sierra Leone’s 1991 Constitution, which guarantees the fundamental rights of all citizens. In particular, it undermines the protections of freedom of speech and expression, essential to any thriving democracy.

3. *Unaccountable Powers to Government Officials* –

This Bill proposes giving significant powers to government ministers and unelected officials, including imposing sanctions and confiscating assets under the guise of counterterrorism.

This creates the potential for politically motivated actions that threaten the freedoms of Sierra Leoneans.

4. Lack of Public Consultation –

The speed at which this Bill is being pushed through Parliament, without proper debate or public consultation, is deeply concerning. Such an important piece of legislation deserves to be thoroughly debated with all stakeholders, including the media, civil society, and the people it seeks to govern.

5. Chilling Effect on Media and Journalism –

This Bill would provide a legal basis for silencing any media outlet that dares to hold power to account, undermining the free press essential to democracy.

“I stand firmly for a democratic Sierra Leone, where citizens can freely express their views, challenge authority, and demand accountability. I strongly oppose any attempt to use the guise of counterterrorism to silence political opposition, civil society, and the media,” Dr. Konteh stressed.

On his response to Dr. Konteh’s open letter titled “RE: Urgent Call to Reject the Counter-Terrorism Bill 2024 in the Current Context,” Hon. Abdul Kargbo expressed appreciation for Dr. Konteh’s active engagement and the detailed concerns he has raised regarding the Counter-Terrorism Bill 2024.

Dr. Konteh expressed his gratefulness to Hon. Abdul Kargbo for his response, which demonstrates a commitment to transparency and public engagement. Readers can find the detailed analysis of the specific clauses within the Bill that Dr. Konteh believe could lead to unintended violations of fundamental rights, including issues around freedom of expression, due process, and the right to privacy on his website <https://www.dunifier.com/post/addressing-concerns-about-the-sierra-leone-counter-terrorism-bill-2024>.

“As we move forward, it is critical that we engage in a thoughtful and transparent review of the Bill to ensure that national security measures do not come at the expense of the very freedoms that define our democratic society. The right to protest, organize, and express dissent must be protected, and I hope that my concerns, along with those of many other Sierra Leoneans, will be carefully considered as we work toward legislation that safeguards both our national security and our rights,” Dr. Konteh encourages Parliamentary members.

We must protect our freedoms and safeguard the future of Sierra Leone by ensuring that the laws passed in our Parliament serve to protect the interests of the people, not to serve the interests of the few in power.

Let us remember that a democracy is only as strong as the freedom of its people to speak truth to power. It is time for accountability, transparency, and the protection of our civil rights.



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ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR SIERRA LEONE

A Unifying Fight Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Development

Sierra Leone, a nation rich in natural resources and human potential, faces significant challenges in achieving economic justice for its people. Despite progress in certain areas, the legacy of conflict and systemic issues like corruption and inequality continue to hinder the equitable distribution of wealth and opportunities. This article delves into the multifaceted dimensions of economic justice in Sierra Leone, exploring the obstacles, opportunities, and potential pathways toward a more sustainable and inclusive development model.

Understanding Economic Justice in the Sierra Leonean Context

Economic justice goes beyond mere economic growth. It encompasses the fair distribution of resources, opportunities, and burdens, ensuring that all members of society have access to basic necessities, decent work, and a voice in economic decision-making.



In Sierra Leone, achieving economic justice requires addressing historical injustices, tackling present-day inequalities, and building a foundation for future prosperity that benefits all citizens.

Challenges to Economic Justice

Several interconnected challenges impede economic justice in Sierra Leone:

- ***Inequality and Poverty:*** Sierra Leone grapples with stark income inequality, with a small elite

controlling a disproportionate share of wealth. This disparity perpetuates poverty, limiting access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities for the majority of the population.

- ***Corruption and Weak Governance:*** Corruption remains a pervasive issue, diverting public resources, undermining trust in institutions, and hindering effective service delivery. Weak governance structures and a lack of accountability

continued on next page

further exacerbate these problems.

- **Resource Curse:** Despite abundant natural resources, particularly minerals, Sierra Leone has not fully benefited from them. The "resource curse" phenomenon, characterized by mismanagement, corruption, and a lack of transparency in the extractive sector, has hindered sustainable development and equitable resource wealth distribution.
- **Unemployment and Underemployment:** High rates of unemployment, especially among youth, and widespread underemployment contribute to economic insecurity and social instability. The lack of decent work opportunities limits individuals' ability to escape poverty and contribute to the nation's development.
- **Limited Access to Finance and Credit:** Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which have the potential to drive economic growth and job creation, often face significant barriers to accessing finance and credit. This constraint hampers their growth and limits their contribution to economic justice.

Opportunities for Promoting Economic Justice

Despite these challenges, Sierra Leone possesses opportunities to advance economic justice:

- **Diversification of the Economy:** Moving beyond reliance on the extractive sector and diversifying the economy into agriculture, manufacturing, and services can create more inclusive growth and reduce vulnerability to commodity price fluctuations.
- **Investing in Human Capital:** Prioritizing investments in education, healthcare, and skills development can empower individuals, enhance productivity, and create a more competitive workforce.
- **Strengthening Governance and Transparency:** Promoting good governance, transparency, and accountability in public institutions is crucial for combating corruption, improving service delivery, and building trust in government.
- **Empowering Local Communities:** Engaging local communities in decision-making processes related to resource management and development projects can

ensure their voices are heard and their needs are addressed.

- **Promoting Inclusive Finance:** Expanding access to financial services, including microfinance and credit for SMEs, can empower entrepreneurs, foster economic activity, and create opportunities for marginalized groups.

Pathways to a More Just Economy

Achieving economic justice in Sierra Leone requires a concerted and sustained effort from various stakeholders, including the government, civil society, the private sector, and international partners.

Key strategies include:

- **Implementing progressive taxation policies:** Ensuring that the tax system is fair and progressive, with those who have more contributing a greater share, can help redistribute wealth and fund social programs.
- **Strengthening social safety nets:** Expanding social protection programs, such as cash transfers and unemployment benefits, can provide a safety net for vulnerable populations and help reduce poverty.
- **Promoting responsible investment:** Encouraging responsible investment

- environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and respect for human rights can ensure that economic growth benefits all members of society.
- ***Enhancing access to justice:*** Strengthening the rule of law and improving access to justice mechanisms can help protect the rights of marginalized groups and ensure that everyone has equal opportunities.
- ***Fostering regional cooperation:*** Collaborating with neighbouring countries on issues such as trade, infrastructure development, and resource management can create regional economic opportunities and promote sustainable development.

Conclusion

Economic justice is not merely an aspiration but a fundamental right. In Sierra Leone, achieving this goal requires addressing deep-rooted challenges, capitalizing on existing opportunities, and implementing comprehensive strategies that promote inclusive and sustainable development. By working together, stakeholders can create a future where all Sierra Leoneans have the chance to thrive and contribute to their nation's prosperity.



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GLOOMY DAYS FOR SIERRA LEONE

Drugs and Diplomatic Shenanigans



Sierra Leone is facing a confluence of crises, raising serious concerns about its ability to combat drug trafficking and maintain its international reputation. Recent allegations of harbouring a notorious European drug kingpin, coupled with a separate cocaine smuggling incident involving Sierra Leone's embassy officials in Guinea and the ongoing "kush" epidemic, paint a troubling picture.

Jos Leijdekkers, also known as "Bolle Jos," one of Europe's most-wanted fugitives, has reportedly been residing in Sierra Leone, posing in photos with top government officials. Convicted in absentia in the Netherlands for smuggling over seven tonnes of cocaine, Leijdekkers' presence in Sierra Leone has sparked international outrage. Dutch authorities are prioritizing his extradition, while Sierra Leonean officials remain largely silent.

Reuters news agency reported Leijdekkers' presence was potentially captured in a social media video posted by the President's wife. The situation has ignited calls for transparency and accountability, with figures like Dr. Richard Konteh demanding a full investigation into how such a high-profile fugitive could find refuge in the country. The substantial \$210,000 reward offered for information leading to his arrest underscores the gravity of the situation.

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Adding to the growing concerns, a separate incident involving suspected cocaine found in a Sierra Leone embassy vehicle in Guinea has further damaged the nation's image. Seven suitcases containing the substance were discovered by Guinean officials, leading Sierra Leone to recall its ambassador to Guinea for questioning. While the government still remain tight-lipped in the incident, it raises serious questions about the potential misuse of diplomatic channels for illicit activities.

These events unfold against the backdrop of Sierra Leone's devastating "Kush" crisis. This highly addictive and destructive psychoactive drug, often containing human bones, has ravaged communities, particularly among young men. The government's response has been inadequate. The strain on mental health services is immense, with a dramatic surge in "kush"-related admissions at the country's only psychiatric hospital. Communities have resorted to vigilante justice in some cases, highlighting the desperation caused by the drug's widespread availability.

Further complicating matters, a United Nations Security Council document has surfaced regarding the appointment of President Bio's daughter, Agnes Bio, as an alternate representative to the UN Security Council. Concerns have been raised about the potential for this position to provide diplomatic cover for criminal activities, particularly in light of Leijdekkers' presence in the country. Links between Agnes Bio and Leijdekkers, reported by Reuters, have fueled these anxieties, prompting calls for investigations from Dr. Richard Konteh on his X profile and raising fears of a burgeoning drug cartel operating under the guise of diplomatic immunity. The timing of this appointment, coupled with the recent drug-related incidents, has amplified concerns about potential corruption and the erosion of Sierra Leone's integrity on the international stage.



The combined effect of these incidents has placed Sierra Leone under intense scrutiny. The international community is watching closely to see how the government addresses these serious allegations and demonstrates its commitment to combating drug trafficking and upholding the rule of law. Failure to act decisively could have severe consequences for Sierra Leone's reputation, its stability, and the well-being of its citizens.





Security Council

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Credentials of the alternate representatives of Sierra Leone on the Security Council

Report of the Secretary-General

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 12 March 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations stating that Ms. Sonia U. Karim, Mr. Abass S. Kamara, Ms. Lanla Kamara-Joyner, Mr. Shaekou Allieu, Mr. Mohamed K. Sesay, Brigadier General Sahid Kanu, Ms. Ebunoluwa Tengbe, Mr. Allieu V. Koroma, Colonel Richard Bockarie, Ms. Onike Spencer-Coker, Mr. George S. Kamanda, Ms. Estella Mambu, Mr. Isaac Bayoh and Ms. Agnes Bio have been appointed alternate representatives of Sierra Leone on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, that letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

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THE FOUR SIGNS OF A LEADER OF HOPE



Amid Sierra Leone's political, social, and economic challenges, we desperately need leadership that inspires hope, unity, transformation, and progress. This nation is always caught in cycles of division, hardship, and uncertainty. We all know that feeling too well - that feeling is "leadership sadness."

Given the struggles that our country is going through right now, it is very sad to see men and women in leadership positions and roles who choose to lead by pushing people apart rather than by bringing them together. Those who claim to be leaders today in this country are leaning into the things that separate us, stoking fear over hope, or they simply shrink back from the moment and allow the darkness to swallow them instead of lighting a candle to fight it.

This is a time of darkness. But there is reason for incredible hope. We have the people and tools necessary to turn this moment into an opportunity to help change our country. Here are the four signs of a leader of hope you should carefully look for among the noisy crowd:

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They Dig for Gold While Others Dig for Dirt

This is an easy one to tackle, especially during political campaigns. We're often bombarded by attack ads and smear campaigns that seek to bring out the worst about a potential elected leader, and illustrate how things will only get darker if they're elected. It's a race to the bottom where no one wins. Divisive leaders aren't afraid to tear things down and allow fear to run freely.

On the contrary, leaders of hope look for what's good in others and the situation around them. They believe in the best of people and believe in the best of our future. Leaders of hope inspire others to seek out what's true, noble, good, praiseworthy, and inspiring. They paint a picture of a more brilliant tomorrow that everyone can see themselves in.

They Live Out Good Values While Others Live Out Emotions

This may come across as harsh, as emotions are something everyone must wrestle with. But while we all feel various emotions, divisive leaders put emotion at the center of their leadership, creating instability and uncertainty that only amplifies the chaos around them. When leaders lead from a place of emotion, they are at the mercy of those emotions

changing—for better or worse—and so are the people they lead.

Leaders of hope, however, lead from a place of good values, and good values never change. They are good across time and circumstance and provide a stable foundation for discussion, planning, and decision-making. Because values are as true tomorrow as they are today, they provide consistency for those who follow and create a sense of confidence amid chaos.

They Build Bridges While Others Burn Them

This may sound hyperbolic, but divisive leaders aren't the least bit afraid of sacrificing relationships for their agenda. They will gladly burn down a bridge to one audience if it means creating a connection with a newer, more attractive audience that can help them now. As a result, they create an atmosphere of disloyalty and mistrust, which only increases the sense of uncertainty and chaos that their followers must battle.

This is not how leaders of hope operate. Leaders of hope continually build bridges to new people without burning any bridges from their past. They understand that relationships are the key to achieving great things, and nurturing those relationships is part of the work that good leaders do. Leaders of hope will find new and creative ways to reach not only audiences who

agree with their message, but audiences who aspire to their vision.

They Tell the Truth While Others Manipulate It

If you've heard the terms "fake news," "misinformation," and "disinformation" once, you've heard it a thousand times, and with good reason: people are struggling to know who to trust when it comes to finding out the truth about what's going on in the world. Divisive leaders take advantage of this situation by manipulating truth to their advantage—leveraging half-truths, or only telling certain sides of a story that make them look good. Sometimes, they hide their mistruths behind the falsehoods of others; they point out the lies that others tell in order to hide their own. It further disintegrates the trust of those who follow and deepens the darkness.

Leaders of hope stand on the truth. They bring facts and reality into the clear light of day and present them to their people for consideration, reflection and



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discussion. They don't gloss over uncomfortable truths or attempt to hide past mistakes. Instead, they lead the way by addressing issues openly and honestly with an eye towards doing right instead of being right. AAs a result, they model a hopeful way forward for their followers and restore belief in the truth and its power to affect positive change.

We need leaders of hope. We need men and women who aren't optimistic about the future—passively longing for a better to eventually reveal itself—we need men and women who are hopeful about the future and actively seeking ways to bring it to pass. We need leaders who will rise above the darkness and light the way to a better tomorrow.

A Leader for Today, and for Tomorrow

Sierra Leone faces significant challenges—economic instability, political division, and social unrest. Yet, amidst these trials, there is hope. Dr. Richard Konteh embodies the qualities of a leader who will not shrink from these challenges but rise above them, lighting the way forward. His leadership is rooted in optimism, grounded in solid values, and committed to building bridges rather than creating divisions.

For Sierra Leone to thrive, we need leaders like Dr. Konteh,



who believe in the potential of their people, who value unity over division, and who lead with integrity and transparency. Dr. Konteh's vision for Sierra Leone is one where every citizen has the opportunity to succeed, where political differences are set aside for the greater good, and where hope and progress are the driving forces of the nation's future.

If we are to build a brighter Sierra Leone, we must look to leaders like Dr. Konteh. As he continues his work as "The Unifier," he shows us that true leadership is not about power or recognition—it's about serving the people, telling the truth, and fighting for a better tomorrow. Sierra Leone is on the brink of something great, and with leaders like Dr. Richard Konteh, we can hope for a future where unity and prosperity reign.



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FOR YOUR DREAM, BELIEVING IS NOT ENOUGH

By Mark Cole



There was a popular song in the 90's called "I Believe I Can Fly." The song has made its way around the world, inspiring millions of people to believe in themselves. It's of a similar theme to the old saying you've probably heard many times from a parent, mentor, or teacher: "If you believe it, you can achieve it."

The truth is, just believing something doesn't make it so. A pig will never fly, and neither will you. There's a big difference between a fantasy and a dream. Fantasies exist only in the imagination, but dreams...well, dreams can come true.

But it takes work to make a dream a reality. After all, a dream that has no chance of becoming reality is nothing more than a waste of time.

That's the tricky thing about dreams—by definition they are not supposed to start with reality. The best dreams are bold and ambitious full of hope and possibility. But what makes a dream worthwhile is your ability to bring it into reality.

Rudy Ruettiger said it best, "Reality...is the enemy of fantasies but not of dreams." The difference in a fantasy and a dream is reality.

We don't have the ability to achieve whatever we believe. It doesn't matter how much you believe you can fly, if you jump out of a plane without a parachute, it's all over.

Think about the difference in fantasizers and dreamers:

- Fantasizers rely on luck. Dreamers rely on discipline.
- Fantasizers wait. Dreamers initiate.
- Fantasizers make others responsible. Dreamers take responsibility.
- Fantasizers focus on the destination. Dreamers focus on the journey.

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- Fantasizers minimize the value of work. Dreamers maximize the work they do.

Successful people don't leave everything to chance. They focus on what they can do, and do it.

I love this quote from Coach John Wooden, "I welcome good luck just as anyone does, but I worked extremely hard to avoid being in a situation in which luck was necessary to produce a favorable outcome or where the luck of an adversary could defeat us."

If your dream is unrealistic, you will depend on things that are outside of your control to make it a reality. There must be a balance between the boldness of your dream and the reality of your situation.

Successful people, like Coach Wooden, have mastered the art of reaching beyond what they're capable of while depending on factors within their control. This is called aligning your dreams with your talent.

John Maxwell says, "When people's talent does not match their dreams and they fail to recognize it, they will be forever working but never winning."

I want to challenge you to look in the mirror and be honest with yourself about your dreams. Are you trying to do things that you really aren't suited for?

Reality is never the enemy of a dream as long as you are depending on factors within your control. Factors like your ability, your habits, and your potential.

Ask yourself these questions as you seek to find that place where dream and reality meet:

1. What is my dream?
2. What are my strengths?
3. What are my weaknesses?
4. What are my positive habits?
5. What are my negative habits?
6. How long must I practice my positive habits to reach my potential?

Believing in your dream isn't enough. You must understand your reality if you want to see your dream come true. I want to encourage you today—dream big, dream bold, and dream beyond imagination!

But more than that, I want to see you accomplish your dreams. And I believe that is possible—with a lot of work. So what are you waiting for?



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TEST YOUR MENTAL POWER: CAN YOU SOLVE ALBERT EINSTEIN'S FAMOUS HOUSE RIDDLE?

Using 15 clues, see if you can figure out the answer to Albert Einstein's famously tricky house riddle.



Albert Einstein photographed in 1905. / Ann Ronan Pictures/Print Collector/Hulton Archive/Getty Images

You don't need to be well-versed in quantum physics or even complex math to solve Albert Einstein's famous house riddle. All it takes to tackle the problem below is logic—and if that isn't enough for you, you can find the answer at the end of the article.

According to Popular Mechanics, the riddle goes like this: There are five houses lined up next to each other along a street. Each house is a different colour, and each homeowner is of a different nationality, drinks a different beverage, smokes a different brand of cigar, and owns a different pet.

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If these variables can never repeat from house to house, which homeowner has a pet fish? You should be able to figure out the answer based on these 15 clues:

1. The Englishman lives in the house with red walls.
2. The Swede keeps dogs.
3. The Dane drinks tea.
4. The house with green walls is just to the left of the house with white walls.
5. The owner of the house with green walls drinks coffee.
6. The man who smokes Pall Mall keeps birds.
7. The owner of the house with yellow walls smokes Dunhills.
8. The man in the center house drinks milk.
9. The Norwegian lives in the first house.
10. The Blend smoker has a neighbor who keeps cats.
11. The man who smokes Blue Masters drinks beer.
12. The man who keeps horses lives next to the Dunhill smoker.
13. The German smokes Prince.
14. The Norwegian lives next to the house with blue walls.
15. The Blend smoker has a neighbor who drinks water.

The popular lore of the riddle traces it back to Einstein's teaching days. According to the story, the scientist gave the riddle to students to discourage them from picking him as their academic advisor, though this is likely just a legend. Another dubious element has been added to the riddle's story since it hit the internet: Allegedly only 2 percent of the world's population can solve it.

Whether that figure is true or not, thinking through the problem takes some real brain power. You can check out the solution in the video below from [TED-Ed](#).

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