

# VP Juldeh Jalloh Urges Police Reform To Deliver Security, Trust And Accountability



**V**ice President Dr. Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh has called for continued reforms within the Sierra Leone Police to strengthen security, improve professionalism and enhance public confidence in law enforcement. The Vice President made the call on Thursday, 27 August 2026, when he chaired a meeting of the Executive Management Board of the Sierra Leone Police at the Office of the Vice President.

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## Gov't, Military Sign Historic MoU To Purchase Local Rice



**I**n a landmark move to strengthen the nation's agricultural economy and reduce import dependency, the Government of Sierra Leone on Thursday August 27th, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) at the

Strategic Rice Reserve in Kobia. The agreement institutionalizes the purchase of locally produced rice directly from the Reserve, marking a significant shift in how the country manages its food security. As an immediate first step under this new

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## Information Minister, Chinese Ambassador Hold Bilateral Talks

By Alimamy Lahai Kamara



**N**o doubt, this embassy continues to be impressive as ever; it is always open for dialogue, for partnership, for

providing institutional support. We at the Ministry of Information and Civic Education truly acknowledge this

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# Editorial

## Fighting Examination Malpractice: Sierra Leone Must Build an Education System That Rewards Merit

The credibility of any nation's education system rests fundamentally on one principle: a certificate must mean what it says. It must represent knowledge acquired, skills developed, effort demonstrated and competence genuinely earned. For Sierra Leone, this principle is increasingly under pressure from the persistent problem of examination malpractice. The use of mobile phones and other unauthorized materials, impersonation, collusion, leaked examination questions and organized forms of cheating have become matters of serious national concern. These practices threaten not only the credibility of public examinations but also the quality of the human capital upon which the country's future depends. The issue must therefore be understood as much more than cheating within an examination hall. It is a systemic challenge that requires a coordinated national response involving Government, the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, the West African Examinations Council, the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Sierra Leone Police, school authorities, teachers, parents, communities and, most importantly, students themselves.

**The Unfairness of Cheating**  
Consider the hardworking student who spends months preparing for the West African Senior School Certificate Examination, relying solely on study, discipline and determination. On examination day, that student may find himself or herself sitting alongside another candidate who has gained unlawful access to answers through a mobile phone, leaked questions or an organized cheating network. If both students ultimately receive similar grades, the message sent to the honest student is deeply damaging: that hard work is less valuable than money, connections or access to illicit assistance. This is precisely the culture Sierra Leone must resist. When examination malpractice becomes normalized, certificates cease to be reliable measures of achievement. The danger extends far beyond the examination candidate. A person who obtains qualifications dishonestly may later enter higher education, professional training or the workplace without possessing the knowledge and skills that the certificate claims to demonstrate. That is not merely an educational problem. It is a national development problem.

**A Shared National Responsibility**  
The responsibility for protecting examination integrity cannot be placed entirely on WAEC, invigilators or individual schools. Government must provide the policy direction, institutional support and resources necessary to create an examination system that is secure, credible and resistant to manipulation. The Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education has a particularly important role in ensuring that examination integrity forms part of the wider national education policy. This should include stronger monitoring of schools and examination centres, appropriate training for teachers and examination personnel, and

continuous review of institutions associated with repeated irregularities. WAEC, for its part, must continue strengthening the security of examination materials from the point of printing through storage, transportation and distribution. Supervision and invigilation must remain robust, while unauthorized electronic devices must be effectively controlled. Allegations of examination irregularities must also be investigated promptly and appropriately.

**Schools Must Build Integrity Before Examination Day**  
The fight against malpractice must begin long before a candidate enters an examination hall. Schools should deliberately cultivate a culture of honesty, discipline and academic responsibility. One practical approach is the establishment of Examination Integrity Committees comprising school leadership, teachers, guidance counsellors, parents and student representatives. Such structures can provide regular sensitization, explain the consequences of examination malpractice and encourage students to understand that genuine achievement is ultimately more valuable than an artificially inflated grade. Education is not simply about passing examinations. It is about preparing young people to become competent, responsible and productive citizens. A system that teaches children to cheat in order to succeed risks undermining that very purpose.

**Parents and Communities Must Reject "Results at All Costs"**  
Parents also have a significant responsibility. The pressure to produce impressive examination results must never become an excuse for parents or guardians to finance, facilitate or tolerate cheating. Helping a child obtain a certificate dishonestly may appear to solve an immediate problem, but it can create a much greater problem in the future. A certificate obtained through malpractice cannot substitute for knowledge. Parents should therefore encourage children to prepare adequately, support schools in enforcing examination rules, refuse to finance malpractice and report suspected irregularities. Communities, too, must stop celebrating examination results without considering whether those results were genuinely earned.

**No One Should Be Above the Rules**  
Where examination malpractice involves bribery, organized fraud, leakage of confidential materials or other criminal conduct, there must be proper investigation and enforcement. The Anti-Corruption Commission and the Sierra Leone Police have important roles to play where suspected malpractice crosses into criminal activity. But enforcement must be consistent, transparent and fair. Nothing undermines public confidence more than a system in which some offenders are punished while others escape accountability because of wealth, influence or connections. The principle must be simple: the rules must apply equally to everyone.

**Technology Must Become Part of the Solution**

Technology presents both a challenge and an opportunity. Mobile phones and online platforms can facilitate examination malpractice, including the distribution of leaked questions and the coordination of organized cheating. But the same technological tools can be deployed to strengthen examination security. Sierra Leone should continue exploring secure candidate registration and verification, digital tracking of examination materials, improved data management and secure communication among examination authorities. The objective should be clear: technology must become a shield for examination integrity, not a weapon for examination fraud.

**Protecting the Future of Sierra Leone**  
The consequences of examination malpractice do not end when results are released. If dishonest qualifications are allowed to enter universities, professional institutions and the workplace, the country risks producing graduates and professionals whose certificates overstate their actual competence. That can ultimately affect the quality of institutions, public services and national development. For a country seeking to strengthen its human capital and accelerate national development, this is a risk Sierra Leone cannot afford. We must therefore move beyond reacting to individual cases of cheating and build a comprehensive national examination-integrity system founded on prevention, education, technology, monitoring, investigation, fair punishment and sustained public awareness.

**A Certificate Must Mean Something**  
Sierra Leone's young people deserve an education system in which effort is rewarded, honesty is respected and achievement is genuine. The ultimate objective should not simply be to catch more students cheating. It should be to create an environment in which cheating becomes increasingly difficult, socially unacceptable and unnecessary. Every student should know that genuine knowledge is more valuable than a grade obtained dishonestly. Every parent should understand that facilitating malpractice does not secure a child's future. Every school should recognize that examination integrity begins with the culture it creates. Every institution involved in public examinations must understand that its responsibility extends beyond examination day. Above all, the nation must agree on one fundamental principle: A certificate must represent knowledge, hard work and competence - not money, connections or leaked answers. Protecting the integrity of examinations is therefore not merely about protecting WAEC results. It is about protecting the credibility of Sierra Leone's education system, safeguarding the future of its young people and ensuring that the workforce of tomorrow possesses the competence required to build the Sierra Leone we want. The fight against examination malpractice must consequently become a sustained national commitment. The future of Sierra Leone is too important to be examined through dishonesty.

Governance & Development

By: Salamatu Conteh

Sierra Leone has commenced preparations to host two major international information conferences in September - the UNESCO International Day for Universal Access to Information and the International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC), which are expected to bring approximately 300 international delegates to the country. The three-day programme will be hosted at the JMB International Conference Centre in Lungi. Minister of Information and Civic Education, Chenor Bah, hosted a high-level coordination meeting at the Ministry's Conference Room, bringing together representatives from key government institutions to coordinate preparations for the events. In his opening remarks, Minister Bah described the conferences as landmark events for Sierra Leone, noting that the anticipated participation of international delegates demonstrates growing recognition of the country's work in

Sierra Leone Prepares to Host Dual International Information Conferences in September

advancing access to information. The Minister emphasised the importance of inter-ministerial collaboration and cited President Julius Maada Bio's directive for all institutions involved to "put our best foot forward" in ensuring the successful hosting of the conferences. Minister Bah also stressed the importance of sustaining the momentum generated by the events and positioning Sierra Leone to attract and host more high-level international conferences in the future. Chairman of the Right to Access Information Commission (RAIC), Dr. Ibrahim Seaga Shaw, provided a technical update, identifying transportation as a key logistical consideration and calling for strengthened coordination among participating institutions. Representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Transport and Aviation,

Ministry of Health, Ministry of Communication, Technology and Innovation (MoCTI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Office of National Security (ONS) provided updates on their respective preparations and commitments towards ensuring the success of the conferences. Discussions centred on critical areas including transportation, security, healthcare, internet connectivity, power supply, live streaming, and diplomatic protocol, with institutions outlining measures to ensure effective coordination before and throughout the events. The preparations are aimed at ensuring a seamless experience for delegates from arrival to departure, while demonstrating Sierra Leone's readiness and capacity to host major international engagements and strengthening its profile as a destination for future global conferences.

Government Pushes Safer, Stronger Media for Women



professionals and having implications for the quality, independence and credibility of journalism. Director Francess pointed to Sierra Leone's existing legislative framework, including the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act, 2022 and the Employment Act, 2023, stressing that "our task now is to strengthen implementation." She further backed the proposed Safeguarding Charter as an opportunity to translate existing commitments into practical newsroom procedures, noting that journalists must know where to report abuse, who will listen, how confidentiality will be protected and what safeguards exist against retaliation. Director Francess also highlighted the

briefing cautioned that the findings reflect the experiences of participating respondents and should not be treated as a census of all journalists in Sierra Leone. Participants subsequently considered the proposed Safeguarding Charter, which includes confidential reporting mechanisms, protection against retaliation, clear investigation procedures, referral pathways, digital safeguarding, management responsibility and monitoring of implementation. The Government's proposed role includes supporting implementation of existing laws and policies, promoting awareness of labour and gender rights, strengthening journalist safety and digital rights, encouraging

The Government of Sierra Leone has called for stronger implementation of existing laws and practical safeguarding measures to protect women in the media, while stressing that efforts to promote gender justice must strengthen, rather than compromise, media freedom and editorial independence. The Director of Information and Government Services, Francess Josephine Kafula made the call while participating in a Policy Dialogue Forum on Gender Justice in the Media organised by Women in the Media Sierra Leone (WIMSAL), in collaboration with Comic Relief, on Friday, 21 August 2026, at the Civil Service Training College in Freetown. Speaking on the issue, the Director said gender justice in the media "is not simply about having more women in newsrooms," but about creating an environment where women can enter the profession, remain in it, progress and lead without harassment, discrimination or intimidation. She noted that evidence presented at the dialogue demonstrated that the issue was not abstract, but one affecting real media

changing nature of the media environment, arguing that safeguarding must extend beyond the physical newsroom to digital spaces where women journalists increasingly face harassment and intimidation.



At the same time, she cautioned that safeguarding interventions must be designed to protect media freedom and editorial independence. "A safe journalist is better positioned to work independently, investigate issues of public interest, and contribute to an informed society," she said. The dialogue was informed by findings from the 2025 global study on sexual harassment in the media, which included 298 respondents from Sierra Leone and identified significant gender disparities in experiences of verbal, online and physical sexual harassment. The

compliance with employment standards and working with regulators and media stakeholders on practical implementation. Director Francess urged stakeholders to move beyond declarations and focus on measurable action. "We should not leave this dialogue with another declaration. We should leave with measurable commitments," she said. The dialogue ultimately positioned gender justice as a broader institutional reform agenda encompassing safety, equality, welfare, representation, digital rights, accountability and media freedom.

# Focus On Peace Building

## Senior Citizen Network To Support Peace Commission's Planned Bumpe Ngao Engagement

The Senior Citizen Network Sierra Leone (SCNSL) has offered two vehicles to support an upcoming engagement ok by the Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion (ICPNC) with the Paramount Chief and other key stakeholders in Bumpe Ngao Chiefdom. The offer was made on 26 August 2026 during a courtesy visit by the Peace Commission to SCNSL in Bo. The meeting brought together representatives of the two organizations to discuss community issues and areas where they can work together to promote peace and peaceful coexistence. Based in Bo, the Senior Citizen Network Sierra Leone is an organization that works with senior citizens and provides a platform for older people to participate in discussions on issues affecting their communities and society. The organization also draws on the experience and knowledge of senior citizens in addressing community concerns. During the meeting, ICPNC Regional Coordinator Belinda Ndanema invited SCNSL to join the Commission on its planned visit to Bumpe Ngao Chiefdom. The engagement will bring the Commission together with the Paramount Chief and other stakeholders to discuss issues affecting the chiefdom and listen to concerns from the community. Ms. Ndanema said the experience and knowledge of senior citizens can be useful in understanding community issues and finding peaceful ways of dealing with them. SCNSL Chief Executive Officer Samuel Goba welcomed the invitation and confirmed that the organization would participate in the planned engagement. He also offered two vehicles to assist with transportation for the visit. The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss early warning and the need for communities to identify possible signs of conflict before they develop into serious disputes. Alex Nallo, Civic Educator at SCNSL, said people living in communities are often among the first to notice changes that may lead to tension. He encouraged communities and peace actors to report such concerns early so that appropriate action can be taken. The discussion also focused on concerns about young people, particularly the growing use of Kush. James Blake, Outreach Officer at SCNSL, called for greater attention to young people and the challenges they face. He said communities need to create more opportunities for young people and involve them in positive activities that can help them contribute to their communities. Mr. Blake also called for communities to work together in addressing problems affecting young people, noting that support from families and communities is important in helping young people make positive choices.

The meeting further looked at the role senior citizens can play in peace and community affairs. Their experience and knowledge of local communities can provide useful information when dealing with disputes and other issues that may affect relationships among community members. The two organizations discussed possible areas of cooperation, including early warning and response, youth engagement, dialogue, drug prevention and community peace building. The planned Bumpe Ngao engagement will provide an opportunity for the Peace

Commission and SCNSL to meet with traditional and community leaders and discuss issues affecting the chiefdom. The offer of two vehicles by SCNSL will support the practical arrangements for the planned visit, while the participation of the organization will bring its

experience and community perspective into the engagement. The date for the Bumpe Ngao visit will be agreed by the Peace Commission and SCNSL in consultation with the relevant traditional and community stakeholders.



## Kenema Inmates Call For Regular Engagement As Concerns Mount At Correctional Centre

Inmates at the Kenema Correctional Centre have called for regular visits by the Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion (ICPNC), the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRC-SL) and to help address concerns affecting their welfare and conditions at the centre. The inmates made the call on 26 August 2026 during a preventive monitoring visit by the Peace Commission and the Human Rights Commission. Speaking on behalf of the inmates, their leader, Alhaji Fofanah, said regular visits would give inmates an opportunity to raise their concerns directly with institutions responsible for monitoring their welfare and rights. He said continued visits would also allow concerns to be documented and followed up with the relevant authorities. The inmates raised concerns about overcrowding, saying the number of people at the centre was putting pressure on the available space and facilities. They also complained that some cases were taking too long to be concluded and cited the reported case of Mohamed Braima, who has reportedly been at the centre for about six months. They further raised concerns about education, saying the centre needed more books and learning materials and that classroom space was limited. The inmates also raised concerns about people being sent to prison for minor offences. They cited the reported case of a young person who was sentenced to three months in prison after being convicted of stealing two cups of groundnuts valued at about Le15. They said the case raised concerns about the effect of imprisonment for minor offences, particularly on young people. They also called for greater attention to police and justice-related issues involving detained persons. The concerns were raised during an engagement facilitated by the Officer in Charge of the Kenema Correctional Centre, Mohamed Ngobulango. The monitoring team was informed that 47 male inmates were being held at the centre. Mr. Ngobulango called for preventive monitoring visits to be made more frequent and consistent. He said regular visits would allow relevant institutions to



observe conditions at the centre and identify emerging concerns affecting inmates and the general operation of the facility before they become critical. He said regular attention was needed on overcrowding, the health and welfare of inmates, sanitation and hygiene, access to basic necessities and the general conditions at the centre. Mr. Ngobulango also said regular visits would allow correctional authorities, inmates and visiting institutions to discuss concerns directly, assess conditions, document issues and refer matters to the appropriate authorities in good time. He added that continued monitoring would help strengthen accountability, promote respect for the rights and dignity of inmates and improve conditions at the centre. The Peace Commission's Eastern Regional Coordinator, Luke Kpaka Pessima, encouraged the inmates to maintain peace and discipline and to respect correctional officers and fellow inmates. He urged them to maintain good relations within the centre and avoid actions that could create tension. Pessima also encouraged the inmates to use their time at the centre to pursue education, learn skills and take part in rehabilitation activities. He told them that developing themselves while in custody could help them prepare for life after their release. The engagement brought the

concerns of the inmates, the views of the correctional authorities and the message of the Peace Commission together in one forum, with continued communication identified as important to addressing issues within the centre. The concerns raised during the visit will be documented and, where necessary, referred to the relevant authorities for further attention within the mandates of the institutions involved. The visit forms part of the Peace Commission's preventive monitoring activities across the country. Through these engagements, the Commission listens to concerns, encourages dialogue and promotes peaceful relations in communities and institutions. The Kenema engagement also gave the inmates an opportunity to speak directly about issues affecting their daily lives, while allowing the visiting institutions to hear from the authority responsible for the management of the centre. The focus on peace and discipline was particularly reflected in Pessima's message to the inmates, who were encouraged to respect one another and the correctional officers while making constructive use of their time through education, skills development and rehabilitation. The engagement ended with a call for continued communication and monitoring, alongside encouragement for inmates to maintain peace and discipline and prepare themselves for a positive return to their communities.

# Spotlight On Health Care

## As Sierra Leone Intensifies Drive to End Preventable Maternal Deaths; Reviews Identify Key Causes

Postpartum haemorrhage, hypertension, sepsis and delayed emergency care remain major threats, while family planning and postnatal care take centre stage. Sierra Leone's 300 Days of Activism campaign to end preventable maternal and child deaths is placing renewed focus on the critical factors behind maternal mortality, with maternal death reviews identifying postpartum haemorrhage, hypertensive disorders, sepsis, obstructed labour and ruptured uterus among the leading causes of maternal deaths. The reviews conducted during the 150 days of the 300 days campaign have provided health authorities with a clearer picture of why women continue to die during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period. Severe anaemia also emerged repeatedly as either a direct or contributing factor in several cases. Postpartum haemorrhage remains the single biggest killer, although the campaign's cause-specific analysis indicates that all five leading categories of maternal causes have declined during the campaign, with deaths associated with postpartum haemorrhage falling by approximately one-third. The findings have reinforced the Ministry of Health's focus on strengthening emergency obstetric care, improving referral systems and ensuring that health workers can respond rapidly when complications arise.

**The three delays continue to cost lives**

The maternal death reviews repeatedly

The second delay involves reaching an appropriate health facility. Ambulance delays, transportation challenges in riverine and hard-to-reach communities, movement between facilities without adequate referral coordination and the use of commercial transport for critically ill women all continue to pose risks. Improving emergency transport, referral coordination and documentation is therefore critical to ensuring that women reach facilities capable of providing the care they need. The third delay is receiving appropriate care after reaching a health facility. According to the campaign's findings, this has emerged as the most urgent area requiring action. Women have continued to die after reaching health facilities because of delayed recognition of shock, delayed senior clinical review, inadequate postoperative monitoring, lack of immediately available blood, weak adherence to emergency obstetric protocols and delays in making decisions for surgery.

**Emergency readiness becomes a priority**

In response, the campaign has intensified efforts to improve emergency obstetric readiness at health facilities. Key priorities include ensuring the availability and appropriate use of uterotonics for postpartum haemorrhage, rapid administration of magnesium sulphate for eclampsia, early recognition and treatment of sepsis, adequate blood supplies and timely senior clinical review before a woman's condition deteriorates.

**delivery**

While much attention is traditionally placed on pregnancy and childbirth, health authorities are warning that the period immediately after delivery remains one of the most dangerous stages for mothers. Women can develop secondary haemorrhage, sepsis or complications from hypertensive disorders days after giving birth. This makes postnatal follow-up essential to detecting complications before they become fatal. The campaign's supervision of maternal and child health handbooks found that postnatal care sections were frequently left incomplete, while women who underwent caesarean sections were not consistently returning for follow-up. The Ministry has consequently made postnatal follow-up an explicit expectation for health facilities, with particular emphasis on ensuring that women return for review after caesarean delivery.

**Family planning becomes part of the maternal survival strategy**

The campaign has also brought family planning and post-abortion care firmly into the maternal survival agenda. In July, a six-day training programme on comprehensive post-abortion care was conducted with support from DKT International. Held from 6 to 11 July, the training brought together 20 participants drawn equally from government and private health facilities. Participants were trained in the management of abortion-related complications, infection prevention and control, pain management, family planning counselling and services, as well as standards for respectful and non-judgemental care. Health authorities view family planning as an important component of the effort to prevent maternal deaths, recognising that unmet need for contraception and unsafe abortion contribute to preventable maternal illness and death. The message is clear: achieving zero preventable maternal deaths requires women and families to have access to quality reproductive health services that enable women to safely space and limit pregnancies.

**From reviewing deaths to preventing them**

The maternal death reviews are providing the Ministry of Health with more than statistics. They are helping to identify where and how the health system can intervene before a preventable death occurs. From community awareness and emergency transport to blood availability, clinical decision-making, antenatal screening, family planning and postnatal follow-up, the campaign is increasingly addressing maternal survival as a continuum rather than as a single point of care. As Sierra Leone advances through the 300 Days of Activism, the challenge is now to translate the lessons from every maternal death review into faster action, stronger clinical systems and better continuity of care. For the country's Triple Zero ambition, every preventable maternal death represents not only a loss of life, but an opportunity to identify what went wrong and ensure it does not happen again.

The reviews conducted during the 150 days of the 300 days campaign have provided health authorities with a clearer picture of why women continue to die during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period.

highlighted the well-known "three delays" that can determine whether a woman survives a life-threatening obstetric emergency. The first is the delay in deciding to seek care. Reviews found cases in which women remained at home while bleeding, delayed seeking treatment after developing fever or wound discharge, refused referrals, attempted home deliveries despite high-risk pregnancies, or failed to return for postnatal review following caesarean sections. Health authorities say addressing this delay requires stronger community engagement, better recognition of pregnancy and postpartum danger signs, and greater trust in the health system. This is why communication and community mobilisation are increasingly being treated as part of the clinical response to maternal mortality.

These interventions are central to the emergency obstetric and newborn care functions required for facilities to save lives during obstetric emergencies. The campaign is also placing greater emphasis on antenatal care, particularly the early identification and management of anaemia, hypertension and infections. Maternal death reviews have found that some women who died had limited antenatal contact or conditions such as anaemia and hypertension that were not adequately managed during pregnancy. The Ministry is therefore strengthening risk screening during antenatal visits, ensuring that high-risk pregnancies are appropriately managed and encouraging facility-based delivery for women at increased risk.

**Postnatal period: the critical window after**

# Minister Bah Holds Strategic Leadership Meeting with Six Agencies to Strengthen Coordination and Performance



**T**he Minister of Information and Civic Education, Chernor Bah, has convened a strategic leadership meeting with the six agencies under the Ministry to strengthen coordination, review institutional progress, and address key challenges affecting the information sector.

The meeting brought together senior leadership from the Sierra Leone News Agency (SLENA), Right to Access Information Commission (RAIC), Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC), Government Printing Department (GPD), National Commission for Civic Education and Development (NACCED), and Independent Media Commission (IMC).

Chaired by Permanent Secretary Andrew Kamara, the engagement provided an opportunity for each agency to present updates on its programmes, achievements, challenges, and institutional priorities.

In his opening remarks, Permanent Secretary Kamara described the engagement as a strategic "one family" meeting, emphasizing the

importance of collaboration and collective responsibility between the Ministry and its agencies. He noted that the Ministry's structure has expanded and strengthened, creating greater opportunities for the agencies to support one another and work collectively towards achieving the Ministry's mandate.

He proposed that the leadership meeting be held every two weeks to enhance regular coordination, accountability, information sharing, and follow-up on issues requiring collective action.

The six agencies subsequently presented updates on their respective programmes, activities, achievements, challenges, and priorities.

## Independent Media Commission (IMC)

Chairman Joseph Kapowa of the Independent Media Commission reported on the ongoing review of the Commission's Act and regulations, media monitoring activities, complaints involving media houses, and the need to strengthen the regulation of the rapidly evolving new media

environment.

## Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC)

Director-General Josephine Kamara of the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation provided updates on infrastructure rehabilitation, coverage of major national events, revenue-generation initiatives, partnerships, website development, and plans to restore Channel 27 as an entertainment platform.

## Government Printing Department (GPD)

Mr. Suma of the Government Printing Department briefed the meeting on the Department's new business venture, operational and marketing activities, and ongoing efforts to establish

## Civic Education and Development (NACCED)

Mr. Kobie of the National Commission for Civic Education and Development reported on the launch of the Citizens Budget, citizen engagement activities, Open Government Week, and ongoing discussions around strengthening the NACCED Act.

## Sierra Leone News Agency (SLENA)

Meanwhile, Luciana Bassie of the Sierra Leone News Agency highlighted SLENA's continued national information mandate, including the deployment of correspondents across key public institutions, including Parliament. She also highlighted the Agency's international engagements, partnerships, and training opportunities aimed at strengthening the capacity of its



partnerships and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with institutions for the provision of printing services.

## Right to Access Information Commission (RAIC)

Chairman Dr. Shaw of the Right to Access Information Commission highlighted the Commission's institutional achievements despite resource constraints. He also emphasized the need for additional legal capacity to effectively handle complaints and provided updates on preparations for the upcoming dual international information conferences scheduled for September.

## National Commission for

staff. In his closing remarks, Minister Bah thanked the heads and representatives of all six agencies for honouring the invitation and actively participating in the strategic engagement.

He commended the leadership and staff of the agencies for their continued efforts to strengthen their respective institutions and contribute to the Ministry's broader mandate.

Minister Bah emphasized the importance of collaboration, coordination, innovation, and collective action, noting that the combined strength of the Ministry and its agencies is essential to advancing Sierra Leone's information and civic education agenda.



# MoPED Present National Development Progress and Investment Drive to Parliament

The Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoPED) has showcased progress in implementing Sierra Leone's Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP), along with efforts to mobilise resources, attract investment, and strengthen coordination of national development interventions.

The Ministry made the presentation during an engagement with the Parliamentary Committee on Planning and Economic Development on Thursday 27th August, 2026 at the New Building Meeting Room, Parliament of Sierra Leone, Tower Hill.

The meeting, which was led by the Committee Chairman Hon. Musa Fofanah brought together Minister of Planning and Economic Development Hon. Kenyeh Barlay, Deputy Minister Dr. Jonathan Titus-Williams, senior Ministry officials and Members of the Parliamentary Committee.

The MTNDP, implemented and coordinated by MoPED, provides the framework for aligning government programmes and development interventions with Sierra Leone's national development priorities.

Presenting the Ministry's progress, the Director of Planning, Policy and Research, Dr. Sheka Bangura highlighted developments across key national aspirations, resource mobilisation and efforts to address the country's development financing needs.

He said MoPED is advancing ten (10) bankable projects in areas including the blue economy, tourism, fisheries, sea transportation and agriculture, as part of efforts to attract investment and support national economic development.

Dr. Bangura also highlighted the Ministry's community-level development planning initiative, with pilot plans being validated in Maforki and Marampa to guide development priorities, project identification and effective resource allocation.

The presentation further highlighted progress on ECOWAS-supported initiatives, including the completed ECOWAS Logistics Depot at Lungi, the Sierra Leone-Liberia Joint Border Post, where mobilisation is underway, and the Wai Village Border Market, which is at an advanced stage. Updates were also provided on sanitary pad factories in Kono and Moyamba.

Responding to Members of Parliament, Minister Kenyeh Barlay outlined MoPED's efforts to develop an investment-readiness framework to demonstrate Sierra Leone's preparedness to receive investors through appropriate enabling conditions, government commitment and guarantees.

She also highlighted the proposed regional cabotage project, which seeks to connect Abidjan, Monrovia, Freetown, Conakry, Tema and Senegal for the movement of passengers, containers and vehicles. The initiative has attracted interest as a potential means of reducing the cost and time of transporting goods along the West African coast while strengthening regional trade.

Minister Barlay further underscored the importance of effective community-level leadership in delivering development interventions, drawing on her previous experience with a microfinance

programme implemented across more than 140 chiefdoms.

Chairman of the Committee, Hon. Musa Fofanah, acknowledged the challenges confronting MoPED and assured the Ministry of the Committee's willingness to assist and support the Ministry in fulfilling its national development mandate.

He emphasised the importance of effective coordination across government, noting that ministries and institutions that fail to report relevant development activities to MoPED could undermine the implementation and monitoring of the President's development agenda.

Hon. Fofanah also stressed the need for NGO interventions to be empirically verified and supported by credible data, raising concern over the use of ambiguous figures instead of accurate information that can demonstrate the actual scale and impact of development activities. Hon. Charles Abdulai called for greater participation of the Sierra Leonean diaspora in national development through investment and emphasised the need for reliable agricultural data to assess domestic production against imports, particularly rice. On the 1% Community Development Fund, Hon. Abdul Latiff Sesay welcomed efforts to establish a more structured approach to its utilisation. He stressed that benefits should extend beyond mining-host chiefdoms to other chiefdoms within mining districts and called for district-by-



district information on 1% funds due and paid, projects funded, implementation status and outstanding balances from 2024 to date.

Deputy Chairperson Hon. Hawa Siaffa commended development organisations, including Latter-day Saints, SEND and the European Union, for their contributions to national development. She noted the importance of properly capturing such interventions in development reporting and disclosed that a policy change is being drafted to

give greater priority to local NGOs in accessing development financing.

The discussions underscored the importance of stronger coordination, credible data, effective resource mobilisation and collaboration among government institutions, Parliament, NGOs and development partners in advancing Sierra Leone's national development priorities. Following the discussions, the meeting was adjourned to another sitting, with the date and time to be communicated. MoPED Communications

## MLGCA, ECSL Engage Bongor Stakeholders Ahead of Chieftaincy Election

By Sahr Sewa, Senior Information Officer, MLGCA

The Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs (MLGCA), in collaboration with the Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone (ECSL), has engaged stakeholders in Bongor Chiefdom, Bo District, as preparations intensify for the forthcoming chieftaincy election. The stakeholder engagement brought together local authorities, traditional leaders, community representatives, security personnel and other key stakeholders to discuss the legal, administrative and traditional requirements for a peaceful and credible election. Speaking at the engagement, Provincial Secretary for the Eastern Region, Abu Bakarr Kamara, stressed the importance of completing the assessment and preparatory processes in a timely and transparent manner. He explained that the assessment of Taxpayers and recognised Tribal Authorities (TAs) must be properly conducted and documented to provide a reliable basis for the election. Kamara also highlighted the respective responsibilities of Senior district officers, regional authorities, section chiefs and town chiefs, noting that coordination among these actors would be essential to prevent confusion during the electoral process. He urged stakeholders to follow established procedures and ensure that all recognised town and section authorities are properly captured. Director of Local Government at MLGCA, Brima Newman Combey, said the stakeholder engagement was



intended to prepare communities for the election and clarify issues surrounding chieftaincy administration. He emphasised that traditional leadership must be exercised in accordance with the law and cautioned stakeholders against actions that could undermine peace and stability. Combey further explained that the ministry would continue working with district and traditional authorities to ensure that the necessary verification and revision processes are completed before the election. Senior District Officer for Bo District, Idrissa Kamara, called on traditional leaders and community stakeholders to maintain neutrality and respect the established procedures. He said the engagement was important in helping stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities and urged them to work together to ensure a peaceful process. Representing ECSL, Electoral Commissioner for the Eastern Region, Alex Saffa, reaffirmed the Commission's

mandate to conduct elections in Sierra Leone, including chieftaincy elections, in accordance with the law. Saffa assured stakeholders that ECSL would maintain neutrality, transparency and fairness throughout the electoral process. He noted that the Commission would work closely with MLGCA and local authorities on the necessary preparatory activities, including verification and revision of relevant records. The Regent Chief of Bongor Chiefdom, Joseph A. Murana, welcomed the engagement and expressed appreciation to MLGCA and ECSL for their intervention. Also speaking, Superintendent Ishmael Koroma, Local Unit Commander for Bo District, assured stakeholders of the Sierra Leone Police's commitment to supporting a peaceful electoral environment. The stakeholders were encouraged to resolve disagreements through dialogue and respect the law, with participants stressing that peace and stability remain essential to the successful conduct of the Bongor Chiefdom chieftaincy election.



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## Sierra Leone Full-Category Printing & Business Scope

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- Work permits, passports & various certificates production
- T-shirts, hats printing & customization
- IC cards, access cards, smart cards
- Trophies, medals, souvenir gifts customization
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- Copy paper & office paper supply
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Policy & The People

Good Education Policies Still Need Good Practice

By Alice A. Kamara Esq.

A country can have good education policies and still face serious problems in its education system. That was one of the issues that came through strongly during the recent Special Civic Town Hall on the threats to quality education in Sierra Leone. Speaking on examination malpractice, Anti-Corruption Commissioner Francis Ben Kaifala described a problem that goes beyond pupils trying to cheat in an examination. He spoke about the involvement of parents, teachers, school authorities and others, and warned about the damage this can do to the integrity of the education system. It raises an important policy question. What happens when good policies meet poor practice? Over the years, Government has introduced policies, laws and programmes aimed at expanding access, improving learning and making education more inclusive. These provide an important framework for strengthening the basic and senior secondary education system. But a policy can only achieve so much on its own. If a teacher helps pupils to cheat, if an invigilator ignores malpractice, if a school authority fails to enforce the rules, or if a parent is willing to pay for an unfair advantage, the problem is no longer simply whether the country has the right education policy. It becomes a question of conduct, supervision, accountability and enforcement. Examination malpractice is particularly damaging because examinations are supposed to tell us something about learning. When results are obtained dishonestly, they can create the appearance of educational success without the learning that should come with it. And the consequences do not end with the examination. A system that allows undeserved results to replace genuine achievement risks moving learners from one stage to another without the knowledge and skills expected of them. It also disadvantages pupils who study honestly and teachers and schools that maintain proper standards. This is why improving education cannot be the responsibility of policymakers alone. Government can establish the framework. Education authorities can set standards. Schools can put systems in place. But teachers, principals, parents, pupils, examination officials and communities also determine whether those standards are respected in practice. The gaps we see in education therefore do not always mean that the policy itself is wrong. Sometimes the gap is between what the policy requires and what people actually do. Closing that gap requires stronger supervision, accountability, professional responsibility and a willingness to reject practices that undermine the very education system we are trying to improve. Because good education policy matters. But what we do with it matters just as much.

'This Day In History'

September 1

- (1) **Anti-Corruption Reform (2008):** A strengthened Anti-Corruption Act came into force on September 1, giving the ACC prosecutorial independence and stiffer penalties to fight corruption.
- (2) **On September 1, 2000,** President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah made a historic trip to the Northern Province (visiting Port Loko and Bumbuna) for the first time in over a year to assess post-conflict recovery and infrastructure like the Bumbuna dam during the civil war aftermath.
- (3) **The Protectorate Precursor (1896):** Just one day prior, on August 31, 1896, the British officially declared the hinterland of Sierra Leone a protectorate, directly shaping the administrative layout leading into early September of that colonial era.
- DID YOU KNOW?**
- Honey does not spoil, ostriches have brains smaller than their eyes, and hummingbirds fly backwards.
- Pigs cannot look up, elephants walk on fat-padded tiptoes, and octopuses feature three hearts and blue blood.
- Polar bear fur is transparent, snails hibernate for years, sharks lose tens of thousands of teeth, and dolphins sleep with half a brain.
- Mercury's day spans 59 Earth days, Venus experiences metal snow, and zero-gravity candle flames are round and blue.
- The sun rotates variably by latitude, Mauna Kea out-measures Everest from base to peak, and morning height exceeds nighttime stature.
- Human lung surface matches a tennis court side, bone strength rivals steel multiples, tongue muscles excel in relative strength, and dust is mostly dead skin
- Lighters preceded matches, ancient Egyptians used honey for wounds, and the Eiffel Tower grows in summer heat.
- Paper dates back over two millennia in China, the shortest war lasted 38 minutes, and Franklin was barred from drafting committees to avoid jokes.
- Knocker-uppers woke citizens historically, British tanks boil water for tea, Play-Doh cleaned wallpaper, and # is an octothorpe
- The first domain was registered in 1985, massive video uploads define YouTube, and Cyber Monday emerged in 2005.
- Netflix began over a late fee, Stallone temporarily sold his dog before Rocky success, and space astronauts ate M&M's.
- Watch ads show 10:10, tech icons dropped out of college, SMS started in 1992.

## FOREIGN MISSION IN FOCUS

Sierra Leone's Foreign Minister Mohamed Rahman Swaray today, 29th August 2026, addressed the 26th Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union at the Intercontinental Conference Center, Luanda, Angola. Conveying warm greetings from His Excellency Dr. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, he thanked the Government and people of Angola for their hospitality. Addressing the Council for the first time as Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, he stated that "Sierra Leone aligns itself with the collective African resolve to secure predictable, sustainable financing, owned and led by Africa, for conflict prevention, management and resolution." Africa has already laid an important foundation, he noted, through the revitalised African Union Peace Fund, increased Member State contributions, strengthened governance, and the operationalisation of its three thematic windows for Mediation and Preventive Diplomacy, Institutional Capacity and Peace Support Operations. He commended Dr. Donald Kaberuka, AU Special Envoy on Sustainable Financing, for advancing sustainable financing and fair burden sharing. Yet the gap between Africa's ambitions and available resources remains considerable, he cautioned, as conflicts grow more complex and the cost of responding after violence continues to exceed the cost of preventing it. For Sierra Leone, this is not abstract. Having emerged from a devastating civil conflict, "we know that peace cannot be sustained through security interventions alone." Durable stability, he said, requires investment in preventive diplomacy, inclusive governance, justice,

## Hon. Mohamed Rahman Swaray addresses AU Executive Council for the first time as Sierra Leone's Foreign Minister.

reconciliation, youth empowerment and resilient institutions. Sierra Leone's experience reinforces a simple lesson: "Prevention is both a moral responsibility and sound economic policy." The question, he noted, is no longer whether Africa should finance its peace and security architecture, but how to make that financing predictable, timely and accessible. He proposed two priorities. First, strengthening the operational link between the Peace Fund's Mediation and Preventive Diplomacy window and Africa's early warning mechanisms, so resources, including through the Crisis Reserve Facility, are readily accessible for early action, mediation and election related prevention before a crisis escalates. Second, as the Union advances the Peace Fund Resource Mobilisation Strategy for 2025 to 2030, it should deepen structured partnerships with African financial institutions, the private sector and philanthropic actors, while preserving clear AU oversight and African ownership. Such leaders, he added, must see



peace financing not as philanthropy, but as an investment in the stability on which trade, growth and development depend. He concluded that "a continent that finances its own peace and security architecture is a continent that strengthens its sovereignty and owns its future." External partnerships, he warned, should reinforce, not substitute for, African leadership. He urged African countries to invest in prevention today, so that future generations are not left to bear a far greater cost tomorrow. Embassy of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

## Ambassador Yongawo Opens New Educational Frontiers For Sierra Leone In Russia

Sierra Leone's Ambassador to the Russian Federation, His Excellency Mohamed Yongawo, is continuing his drive to expand educational, scientific and technological opportunities for Sierra Leoneans through deeper cooperation with Russian institutions. At the invitation of the Governor of Novosibirsk, Andrei Travnikov, and the Center for Public Diplomacy, Ambassador Yongawo participated in TECNOPROM XIII - International Forum of Technological Development, held in Novosibirsk from 25 to 28 August 2026. The international forum brought together diplomats, government representatives, scientists, academics, technology experts and members of the business community to discuss technological development, innovation and international cooperation. Addressing a meeting between the Governor of Novosibirsk and representatives of foreign countries participating in the Forum, Ambassador Yongawo highlighted the significant transformation taking place in Sierra Leone under the leadership of His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio, particularly in science, technology, innovation, and digital transformation. The Ambassador pointed to the establishment of the Directorate of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) in the Office of the President, which was created to drive national digital transformation and public-sector innovation. He explained that Sierra Leone's development ambitions are increasingly being supported by investments in technology, innovation and human capital, stressing that a technologically transformed Sierra Leone requires a highly skilled and knowledgeable population. Ambassador Yongawo emphasized that Human Capital Development remains a major priority for the Government of Sierra Leone, with significant investments in education and skills development. However, he stressed that international partnerships

remain essential for Sierra Leone to realize its ambitions fully. The Ambassador called on the institutions, governments, universities, scientists and business leaders represented at the Forum to join Sierra Leone in building sustainable partnerships. "Sierra Leone cannot do it alone. We need partners who share our vision and are prepared to work with us in developing the human capital, knowledge and technological capacity required to transform our country." He further encouraged Russian institutions to look beyond traditional diplomatic relations and explore practical partnerships that can directly benefit Sierra Leonean students, universities, researchers and professionals. While in Novosibirsk, Ambassador Yongawo, with the support of the Center for People's Diplomacy, also participated in visits to three prominent Russian universities: Novosibirsk State University of Science and Technology; Novosibirsk State University of Biotechnology; and Novosibirsk State University of Architecture, Art and Design. The university engagements provided an important platform for discussions on expanding cooperation between Russian and Sierra Leonean higher education institutions. Areas explored included student enrolment, academic exchanges, institutional partnerships, scientific research, faculty cooperation, capacity building, and technological collaboration. Particular attention focused on developing cooperation between engineering faculties in Novosibirsk and their counterparts in Sierra Leone, with discussions pointing to the possibility of establishing direct institutional links. The engagements produced encouraging outcomes, with participating universities expressing their readiness to explore and commence concrete areas of collaboration with Sierra Leonean institutions.

The proposed partnerships could create new opportunities for Sierra Leonean students to pursue studies in specialized fields in the Russian Federation, while also giving Sierra Leonean academics and institutions opportunities to benefit from Russian expertise, research, and technological advancement. The visit therefore represents another important step in Sierra Leone's expanding educational and scientific engagement with the Russian Federation. For Ambassador Yongawo, however, the objective goes beyond securing individual opportunities for students. It is about building enduring institutional partnerships that can strengthen Sierra Leone's universities, develop its human capital, and transfer knowledge, skills, and technology back to Sierra Leone. The Novosibirsk engagements form part of Ambassador Yongawo's broader diplomatic efforts to deepen practical cooperation between Sierra Leone and the Russian Federation, with education, science, technology, and human capital development increasingly becoming central pillars of the bilateral relationship. The Ambassador's participation in TECNOPROM XIII, along with his engagements with Russian universities and academic institutions, shows the growing emphasis on turning diplomatic relations into tangible opportunities for Sierra Leoneans and Sierra Leonean institutions. The visit to Novosibirsk is expected to pave the way for further discussions between the participating Russian universities and their Sierra Leonean counterparts, with the prospect of formalizing areas of cooperation in the immediate future. For Sierra Leone, the message from Novosibirsk is clear: the country is seeking partnerships, not merely opportunities-partnerships that can equip its young people with the knowledge, skills, and technological capacity to build the Sierra Leone of the future. Festus J. Lahai, Information Attaché, Embassy of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Moscow, Russian Federation



300 Days of Activism  
for Triple Zero

R dae take  
me **pekin**  
for get all  
e **maklate**  
Early **action**  
dae **save life.**

Zero Dae Start Wit Action

## Inside PARLIAMENT



**H**onourable Ishmael Sankoh Yillah has engaged stakeholders in Lokomasama Chiefdom, Port Loko District, ahead of the official opening of the newly constructed Lokomasama Boys' Senior Secondary School in Komrabai Town.

The stakeholder engagement, held on Sunday, 16 August 2026, was aimed at mobilising community support for the new institution and strengthening local participation in the Government's Free Quality School Education Programme under the leadership of President Julius Maada Bio. Addressing stakeholders,

Hon. Yillah emphasised the importance of education as a foundation for individual success and national development. He called on parents, community leaders and other stakeholders to work collectively to ensure the sustainability and success of the school. The Chairman of the Conference of Principals in Port Loko, Abdul Karim Sesay, commended the Government and Hon. Yillah for their contribution to advancing education in the district. He assured the delegation of the continued cooperation of school authorities in promoting quality education.

## Hon. Ishmael Sankoh Yillah Engages Lokomasama Stakeholders Ahead of New Boys' Senior Secondary School Opening

The Commissioner for Lands in Port Loko, Madam Rugiatu Kemoh Dumbuya, also expressed appreciation for the development and appealed to Hon. Yillah and the Government to consider the construction of a girls' secondary school to complement the boys' institution.

Madam Dumbuya further encouraged communities to make land available for development projects, stressing that land can serve as an important resource for attracting public infrastructure and improving the lives of local residents.

For his part, Paramount Chief Bai Maroo Raka III of Lokomasama Chiefdom expressed delight over the establishment of the school, describing it as a major opportunity for young people in the chiefdom.

He thanked the Government and Hon. Yillah for bringing the project to Lokomasama and called on community members to contribute to its development and sustainability. He emphasised that the community remains a key stakeholder in ensuring the long-term success of the institution. The Paramount Chief also urged stakeholders to keep education above political differences, calling on parents to support their children and commending teachers for their

dedication and sacrifices in educating the community.

Meanwhile, the Inspector of Schools in Port Loko, Backrie Bangura, commended schools across the district for their performance in the National Primary School Examination (NPSE) and praised teachers for their continued commitment.

He described the establishment of the boys' senior secondary school as a significant milestone for Port Loko District, recognising the efforts of Hon. Ishmael Sankoh Yillah and the Government in making the development possible.

Mr. Bangura also raised concerns about early marriage and teenage pregnancy in the district. He encouraged pupils and community members to report such cases to the relevant authorities to ensure that affected children are protected and given the opportunity to continue their education.

The engagement concluded with stakeholders expressing appreciation for the establishment of the Lokomasama Boys' Senior Secondary School and reaffirming their commitment to working with Hon. Ishmael Sankoh Yillah, the Government and school authorities to ensure the institution becomes a sustainable centre of learning and opportunity for young people in Lokomasama Chiefdom.

## Hon. Mohamed Festus Lansana Highlights Parliament's Role in Government Borrowing and Debt Management

**H**on. Mohamed Festus Lansana, representing the Parliamentary Committee on Finance, has underscored the critical role of Parliament in scrutinising government borrowing and ensuring responsible and sustainable public debt management.

Hon. Lansana made the remarks while serving as a panelist at a One-Day National Stakeholders' Engagement on the Freedom from Debt Campaign, organised by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation Sierra Leone (AHF-SL) at the Family Kingdom Hotel in Aberdeen, Freetown.

Speaking during a roundtable discussion on "The Role of Parliament in Scrutinising Government Borrowing and Debt Management," Hon. Lansana emphasised that Parliament has a constitutional responsibility to promote transparency, accountability and fiscal sustainability in the management of public resources.

He noted that the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone provides Parliament with extensive oversight powers over the Executive, with parliamentary committees serving as important mechanisms for monitoring government activities and ensuring accountability.

According to Hon. Lansana, the Parliamentary Finance Committee, established under Standing Order 71

and Section 93(1) of the Constitution, plays a vital role in scrutinising the operations of the Ministry of Finance and other government institutions that receive funding from the Consolidated Fund.

He explained that Parliament's oversight responsibilities extend to the examination of loan agreements, annual borrowing plans, government guarantees and other debt obligations, with particular attention to whether proposed borrowing is necessary, affordable and consistent with the country's national development priorities.

Hon. Lansana further stressed the importance of parliamentary scrutiny of the Government's Debt Management Strategy and Annual Borrowing Plan. He said Parliament must carefully assess issues relating to debt sustainability, foreign-currency exposure, borrowing costs and the balance between domestic and external borrowings.

He also emphasised that effective parliamentary oversight should continue throughout the entire budget cycle—from budget formulation and approval to implementation, reporting and auditing. He noted that Parliament must remain vigilant about risks associated with State-Owned Enterprises, contingent liabilities and emergency borrowing.

The Finance Committee representative also called for



improved access to timely, accurate and comprehensive public debt information. He noted that Parliament requires adequate technical capacity, reliable data and relevant expertise to effectively scrutinise increasingly complex debt instruments and safeguard the country's financial interests. Hon. Lansana concluded that strong parliamentary oversight is essential to ensuring that government borrowing remains transparent, responsible and sustainable, while

ensuring that borrowed funds are properly utilised with a view to contribute meaningfully to national development and the welfare of citizens. The engagement further highlighted the importance of continued capacity building and stronger collaboration among Parliament, government institutions, civil society organisations and other stakeholders to strengthen oversight of public borrowing and sustainable debt management in Sierra Leone.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## "From TikTok to the Big Screen: I Want Sierra Leonean Stories to Shine Globally"

### Exclusive One-on-One Interview with Actor and Film Star Peter Komba

By Marian Magdalene Bangura - MOICE

From creating entertaining short videos that captivated millions on social media to sharing the screen with some of Nigeria's biggest movie stars, Peter Komba has become one of Sierra Leone's fastest-rising actors and entertainers. Born and raised in Freetown, Peter first won the hearts of audiences as an award-winning TikTok content creator before successfully transitioning into mainstream filmmaking. Today, his growing résumé includes appearances in several Nigerian productions and a recent feature film alongside popular Nollywood actors and Sierra Leonean beauty queen and Housemates winner Souad Baidoun. In this exclusive interview with the DAILY MAIL



Entertainment Desk, Peter Komba opens up about his journey, his passion for acting, and his vision for Sierra Leone's film industry.  
**DAILY MAIL:** Peter, many people first knew you as a TikTok sensation. Did you always dream of becoming an actor?

**PETER KOMBA:** Absolutely. Acting has always been my first love. TikTok simply became the platform that introduced me to a wider audience. Every short video was an opportunity to tell a story, make people laugh, or express emotions. Looking back, those moments prepared me for the movie industry.  
**DAILY MAIL:** You won recognition as one of Sierra Leone's top TikTok creators. How did social media change your life?  
**PETER KOMBA:** Social media changed everything. It gave me visibility and connected me with people I would never have met otherwise. Producers, directors, and fans started noticing my work and opportunities followed. It taught me that consistency and originality always pay off.  
**DAILY MAIL:** You have now featured in several Nigerian productions. What has that experience been like?  
**PETER KOMBA:** It's been an incredible learning experience. Nollywood operates at a very high professional standard, and working alongside experienced actors has helped me improve my craft. Every set teaches you discipline, teamwork, and the importance of preparation.  
**DAILY MAIL:** Your latest collaboration with Etinosa Production/TV, one of Nigeria's notable film production outfits, has brought you together with some of Nigeria's finest screen talents. You recently brought the beautiful and talented Nigerian actress Chinenye Ulaegbu to Freetown for the Sierra Leone private premiere of your movie, Uncanny Love, which took place on 29 August at Golden Beach Cinemas. You have also appeared alongside Chinenye in several

recent movie productions. Tell us more about this exciting collaboration, your working relationship with Chinenye, and what audiences can expect from Uncanny Love.  
**PETER KOMBA:** It was exciting from beginning to end. The chemistry on set was amazing, and everyone brought their unique talent to the project. Working with Chinenye and Etinosa was special because I was representing my country Sierra Leone while sharing the screen with established Nollywood stars. I believe audiences will enjoy the story and the performances.  
**DAILY MAIL:** What is the biggest challenge for young actors in Sierra Leone?

**PETER KOMBA:** The biggest challenge is limited investment in the film industry. We have incredible talent, but we need more production houses, better equipment, more training opportunities, and stronger support from both the government and the private sector. With the right investment, Sierra Leone can become a major filmmaking destination.  
**DAILY MAIL:** How do you prepare for a movie role?

**PETER KOMBA:** I spend time understanding the character and imagining how that person thinks, speaks, and reacts. I study the script repeatedly and try to bring authenticity to every scene. I want audiences to believe the character, not see Peter Komba pretending.  
**DAILY MAIL:** Your fans admire your versatility. Comedy, drama, or action, which genre do you enjoy the most?  
**PETER KOMBA:** I enjoy all three, but drama challenges me the most because it allows me to explore deep emotions and tell meaningful stories. Comedy comes naturally to me because of my social media background, but I never want to be limited to one style.  
**DAILY MAIL:** What role has Sierra Leone played in shaping your career?  
**PETER KOMBA:** Everything started here. The culture, the people, and the energy of Freetown, they all inspire me. No matter where I work, I proudly represent Sierra Leone and want the world to see the talent our country has to offer.  
**DAILY MAIL:** Where do you see yourself in the next five years?  
**PETER KOMBA:** I see myself producing international films, mentoring young actors, and building platforms that give Sierra Leonean creatives global opportunities. I want to be part of the movement that places Salone cinema on the world stage. I want to build a bridge between Sierra and Nigeria through film.  
**DAILY MAIL:** Finally, what message do you have for your fans and aspiring actors?  
**PETER KOMBA:** Never underestimate where you start. I began by creating simple videos with a phone, and today, I'm acting in international productions. Stay consistent, keep learning, believe in yourself, and never stop chasing your dreams. Your breakthrough can come when you least expect it. From viral TikTok videos to starring in international film productions, Peter Komba is proving that talent, determination, and authenticity can open doors beyond borders. As he continues to make his mark in African cinema, he remains one of Sierra Leone's brightest entertainment ambassadors, inspiring a new generation of creatives to dream bigger and tell their stories with confidence.



# Gov't, Military Sign Historic MoU To Purchase Local Rice

framework, the military has purchased 9,000 50kg bags of locally grown rice at a competitive market price.

This initiative is a critical component of the government's broader agenda to build a self-sufficient domestic food system. By transforming the Strategic Rice Reserve into an active market engine, the policy delivers on three key national objectives:

- o **Guaranteed Market for Farmers:** By connecting the Reserve directly to the military's supply chain, Sierra Leonean farmers are granted a reliable, institutional buyer. This stability encourages increased

production, as farmers no longer have to worry about finding a market for their harvests.

- o **Efficient Reserve Rotation:** The purchase facilitates the rotation of the national rice reserves. This ensures that the Strategic Rice Reserve is consistently stocked with fresh, high-quality produce, preventing spoilage and reducing long-term storage costs.
- o **Reduced Import Dependency:** By sourcing from domestic farms, the military is significantly reducing the volume of rice it imports. This keeps financial value within the borders of Sierra

Leone, saves foreign exchange, and shields the national budget from volatile global commodity prices.

Ministry of Agriculture officials emphasize that the move is not merely a transactional purchase, but a structural change in policy. They say that they are not just buying bags of rice, but building a stronger domestic food system. The strategy is simple: produce more, buy local, and keep value in Sierra Leone.

The successful implementation of this initiative is the result of robust public-private and international collaboration. The Government extends its gratitude to its partners, including the World Bank for its financial support in co-investing alongside the government in the Food

Systems Resilience Project (FSRP). The government also heaped praises on the FSRP team and the Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Company (SLPMC) for their essential roles in handling the logistics and aggregation support required to move such large volumes of local produce from farm gates to the Reserve, and finally to the military.

The institutionalization of this procurement framework is expected to serve as a catalyst for the agricultural sector. By proving that local produce can meet the high-volume, high-quality standards required by national institutions like the military, the government hopes to unlock further domestic demand, ultimately driving down food prices and ensuring food security for all Sierra Leoneans.

## VP Juldeh Jalloh Urges Police Reform To Deliver Security, Trust And Accountability

The engagement brought together senior police officers to review issues relating to police governance, operational capacity, security challenges and the relationship between the police and the communities they serve.

As Chairman of the Sierra Leone Police Council, Vice President Jalloh stressed the importance of strengthening the institution to enable it to effectively respond to the security needs of citizens.

The discussions also highlighted the need for police reform to produce measurable improvements in the delivery of security services across the country. Key areas requiring continued attention include police professionalism, operational capacity, training, equipment, response to crime, accountability and public confidence in the rule of law.

The meeting comes at a time when Sierra Leone continues to strengthen its democratic institutions and security architecture. The effectiveness of law enforcement remains central to maintaining public safety and protecting the rights of citizens.

Police reform, however, requires more than strengthening operational capabilities. A modern police service must be able to confront crime effectively while operating within the law and respecting human rights, due process and constitutional safeguards. Accountability is therefore expected to remain an important component of the reform process. Citizens must have confidence that complaints against police officers will be properly addressed and that misconduct will be dealt with through appropriate institutional mechanisms.

The welfare and working conditions of police officers were also identified as important considerations in strengthening the institution. Adequate equipment, transportation, accommodation, training and other

operational resources are necessary to enable officers to perform their duties effectively.

Technology is also expected to play an increasingly important role in modernising policing in Sierra Leone. Improved crime-data management, digital case management systems, modern communication infrastructure, forensic capabilities and intelligence-led policing could enhance the Police's ability to prevent and investigate crime.

However, the use of technology will need to be accompanied by appropriate legal and institutional safeguards to ensure that new policing tools are used responsibly and in accordance with citizens' rights. The reform agenda is also expected to extend beyond Freetown, with emphasis on ensuring that communities across the country benefit from improved police services.

For citizens, the success of police reform will ultimately be reflected in practical improvements, including faster response to emergencies, more professional treatment of the public, improved crime prevention and greater confidence in law enforcement institutions.

The Vice President's engagement with the Police Executive Management Board therefore provides an opportunity for government and police leadership to assess existing institutional gaps and identify measures required to further strengthen the Force.

The meeting also reinforces the need for police reform to move from policy commitments to measurable outcomes that can be experienced by citizens. A professional, adequately equipped and accountable police service is considered essential to maintaining public safety, strengthening the rule of law and supporting democratic governance in Sierra Leone.

## Information Minister, Chinese Ambassador Hold Bilateral Talks

disposition - our shared interest is satisfied, and our collaboration is strengthened. Mr. Ambassador, thank you," Minister Chernor Bah told the Chinese Ambassador, Zhao Yong.

The Minister led a delegation to the Ambassador at the embassy to discuss the participation of the Ministry at the 7th forum on China-Africa Media Cooperation conference in Beijing. The Permanent Secretary, Andrew Saennie Kamara, and the Chief Director, Alimamy Lahai Kamara, were part of the delegation.

According to the Minister, the Ministry's participation at the media forum opened opportunities for people-to-people exchange, created partnership in film and creative industries, and strengthened cooperation among media professionals.

In the last two years, the Ministry has participated in a number of capacity building opportunities, scaling up the competency level of staff in multiple fields. The Ministry stands on record as one of the most productive and performing government agencies that continues to attract attention of no less a person other than the President. At the Presidential Town hall in Makeni months ago, President Bio boldly publicly waved praises on the Minister and team for an impressive performance at placing the presidency on the public stage for public accountability.

This kind of acknowledged delivery is linked to a measured-up competency and capacity of the Ministry situated in an otherwise vacillating and dynamic ecosystem of media production, communication disposition, and regulatory and supervisory endeavours. The Minister and the

Ambassador discussed scholarship opportunities for staff and media professionals in the media environment. Minister Chernor Bah was pleased for the accommodation by the Ambassador to involve the Ministry in coordinating selection processes for awards of scholarships and training opportunities. This will allow the Ministry to record and account for beneficiaries of the schemes and further coordinate with the Sierra Leone's embassy in China for provision of chancery support to candidates. Miatta Civic Centre was also discussed. The embassy pledged its support towards the provision of LED screens and lighting systems to add colour to the service of the centre and to augment its capacity in serving the public. Works at Miatta is ongoing, and the Ministry calls on friends to support refurbishment of the centre, transforming it into a state-of-the earth establishment hosting not only conferences but also cultural festivities.

The two gentlemen proposed China Film Week as a festivity exposing the film industry of China to Sierra Leone, framing collaboration for joint film production, and for screening Chinese movies at Miatta.

Ambassador Zhao Yong committed support to the Ministry and to work closely to deliver on shared interest in areas of capacity building, scholarships, refurbishing Miatta, and cultural exchange. According to Mr. Yong, the engagement was a testimony of their close partnership towards delivering on their shared commitments relative to the overall agenda of their individual governments. The embassy sees the Ministry as a platform for engaging the citizenry of Sierra Leone and for exposing the culture of China to a society that has accommodated a friend for nearly fifty-



# Sierra Leone Gains Bigger Voice In African Aquatics As Turay Elected Zone 2 Vice President

**S**ierra Leone's influence in African swimming has been boosted after Mohamed Abdul Turay was elected Vice President of the Africa Aquatics Zone 2 Bureau at the Zone's Congress in Dakar on Saturday.

Turay, President of Sierra Leone Aquatics, polled the second-highest votes among Vice Presidential candidates, trailing only Senegal's Magatte Dieye. The contest drew delegates from across Zone 2 member federations.

The new leadership team will be headed by President Mamouru Bouare of Mali. Ghana's Farida Idriss takes the Secretary-General role, with Stephane Jacques of Gabon as Treasurer. Dr Bambi Sakho of Guinea and Hon. GBE Orphe of Central African Republic complete the Vice Presidential lineup.

Sierra Leone's presence was secured by Embassy Media Attaché Ishmael Bayoh, who represented the federation with delegate status.

This marks Turay's return to regional office 11 years after his 2015 election in Nigeria. He pledged to champion unity and development for aquatics across West and Central Africa.



# Mogbwemo Queens Vow To Bounce Back After Tough Caf WAFU A Opener

**S**ierra Leone champions Mogbwemo Queens suffered a difficult start to their 2026 CAF Women's Champions League WAFU A Qualifiers, falling 5-1 to Gambian side Berewuleng FC on Saturday.

An early strike from Sarah Jarju in the 15th minute put Queens on the back foot. The hill got steeper in the 37th minute when goalkeeper Godoui Ahouefa Larissa was shown a red card for denying a clear goalscoring opportunity, forcing Sierra Leone to play the entire second half with 10 players.

Jarju went on to score four as Berewuleng ran out 5-1 winners, with Marguerite Semedetou Ahouasson netting Queens' consolation in the 79th minute.

But the Queens' spirit remains unbroken.

"We learn. We reset. We go again," the club posted.

Next up is a must-win clash against AS Bolonta of Guinea on August 31st, 2026. One more game. One more chance to show who they are.



# Kumba Zainab Brima Announces Herself In Spain With Debut Goal For Alaves

**S**ierra Leone's Kumba Zainab Brima wasted no time making her mark in Europe, scoring on her first league start as Deportivo Alaves Femenino opened the 2026/27 Primera Division Women season with a 2-0 win over Valencia CF on Sunday, August 30, 2026.

The 24-year-old forward led the line for the Basque club and capped her home debut with a goal to help Alaves secure all three points in Round 1. Alaves went into halftime 1-0 up before adding a second after the break to see off Valencia at home.

Brima, who wears the number 10 and was previously with Riga FC Women in Latvia, is continuing her steady rise in European football. Her immediate impact will be a huge boost for both club and country.

It was a dream start for the Gloriosas, who sit top early in the campaign, and for Brima who will look to build on the momentum.

**Credit: Miracle Kargbo**