The Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie, has on 24th February 2021 joined Sierra Leonean Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Ernest Mbaimba Ndomahina and other government and foreign officials to welcome graduates from different universities of the People's Republic of China.

The event which took place at Kona Lodge in Freetown attracted a host of dignitaries ranging from Ministers of government, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education, Mr. Gilbert Cooper, to the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Sierra Leone, Dr. Babatunde A. Ahonzi.

Sierra Leone's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Ernest Mbaimba Ndomahina, started off by revealing that there has been an undersupply of engineers, scientists and technicians in different sectors across the country which has over the years allowed the importation of highly expensive expatriate to fill in such demands. He furthered that they are creating a synergy for young graduates to be employed in a society that will not only benefit them but will benefit from them as well. He admonished the young graduates to imbibe the culture of discipline and bring into Sierra Leone what they have learnt from the People's Republic of China.

Giving his keynote statement, the Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie, mentioned that Sierra Leone is in dare need of skilled and trained youths to enhance national growth. He anticipated the opening of a college per district to provide the skill mix required. He confirmed increased number of students taking WASSCE and how that could hugely impact on the tertiary sector. "This is a time that we should have faith and trust in ourselves. Sierra Leoneans need to show clear faith that we can do it and do it right," he said. He said that several students have over the years gone to different countries to study, but this is the first time the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education is going to create a desk with a view to supporting graduates to seek employment on their return. Further, he expressed his delight about his Ministry's synergy with the Ministry of Labor and Social Security in achieving that objective.

The Minister of Labor and Social Security, Alpha Timbo, expressed his delight to be part of such an auspicious event, but at the same time noting that there has over the years been a serious disconnect between the country's university curriculum and the nature of jobs that are required to provide the kind of expectations that the economy needs, especially in the private sector. He reiterated President Bio' s statement that the best way to distribute income in society is to place premium on human capital development, adding that the process does not stop at getting qualifications but goes beyond to include contributions made towards societal development.