



NEWSLETTER



MINISTRY OF TECHNICAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION

MTHE Newsletter

September, 2021



Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie
Minister

Mission Statement

To promote access to quality tertiary and vocational education through appropriate policies and legislations as well as skills development for the advancement of education in Sierra Leone

Vision Statement

To ensure the provision of quality education for national development and global competitiveness

Statement from the Minister

Our Ministry is keen to provide the enabling environment to build the capacity of individuals with the relevant knowledge and skills to meet the social and economic needs of families, communities and the society. We build on the beautiful history of our educational institutions that have nurtured intellectuals, whose contributions have been remarkable. As a Ministry providing oversight to all higher educational institution, we strive for excellence, professionalism and integrity in all we do.

The Ministry offers opportunities for students to access institutions of higher learning through a government Grant-in-Aid and will soon kick-start a student loan scheme. We offer the platform for students to access international scholarships in our website followed by a rigorous and transparent screening process. Our nation has great potential to explore in the field of science and technology with a youthful population with the zest to break new grounds. We are hopeful we can source investment to open opportunities for our growing population. We are committed to increasing enrollment and retention in the technical and vocational institutions by improving existing structures and developing new ones. We are prepared to transform the middle level manpower as a powerhouse for entrepreneurs to move this nation forward. Together as stakeholders in the higher education sector, we can develop a system to compete and excel in the international platform for opportunities to transform our world.

MTHE's Deputy Minister receives Parliamentary Approval



Mr. Sarjoh Aziz-Kamara
Deputy Minister

Mr. Sarjoh Aziz-Kamara, Deputy Minister of Technical and Higher Education was approved by Parliament on 20th May, 2021.

The event was preceded by an interview session that he had previously had with the Parliamentary Committee on Appointment on 18th May, 2021, where he assured members of his willingness to work in concert with the Management and Staff of the Ministry to enhance academic and technical productivity.

His contribution to the growth of the Ministry just within these few months of his arrival has clearly shown that he was sincere in his commitment to adding value to the Ministry.

Mr. Sarjoh Aziz-Kamara has sound professional background, having served in various capacities internationally and nationally. Prior to his appointment by the President of Sierra Leone, His Excellency Rtd. Brig. Dr. Julius Maada Bio, he worked with the United Nations for about ten years in various capacities supporting institutional reform and peacekeeping operations in Liberia and South Sudan. From 2012 to 2016, he was Civil Affairs Officer with the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), where he supported peace consolidation and institutional capacity building.

He further served (2016-2018) as Policy Adviser and Security Sector Reform Officer to the United Nations Police Component, supporting the development of law enforcement and security institutions in Liberia. As Best Practices Focal Point in UNMIL, he participated in several sessions in New York, Italy, Austria, Ghana and Uganda, aimed at promoting knowledge sharing and organizational learning in the United Nations.

Mr. Sarjoh Aziz-Kamara joined the United Nations Mission in South Sudan in 2018 as Political Affairs officer and Team Leader where he coordinated the Field Integrated Operations Centre and Crisis Management, supporting implementation of the South Sudan Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan. In 2006-2007, Mr. Sarjoh Aziz-Kamara, supported the implementation of the Sierra Leone Local Government Act (2004) as Capacity Building Manager of the Institutional Reform and Capacity Building Project, funded by the Government of Sierra Leone and World Bank.

He was Community Development Officer for Conflict and Change in United Kingdom where he supported community cohesion and building of resilient communities, and support to vulnerable groups including Black Minority Ethnic communities, asylum seeking, refugees and the homeless. He further served as Project Manager for the Hand-in-Hand Refugees and Homeless Support Group and supported the work of the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development (CAFOD) in East London as a Volunteer.

After his graduation from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone in 1999 with a BA Hons Degree in Geography, Mr Aziz-Kamara also briefly served as a teacher at Albert Academy, Freetown, before taking up appointment as Project Officer with the Counterparts in Rehabilitation and Development in Sierra Leone (CORD-SL).

Mr Aziz- Kamara also holds MBA from the University of Sunderland, an MSc, Violence, Conflict and Development, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, United Kingdom, and Post-Graduate Diploma in Strategic Leadership and Management, Chartered Management Institute, United Kingdom.

PARLIAMENT ENACTS UNIVERSITIES ACT, 2021

On 8th July, 2021, the Parliament of Sierra Leone debated and enacted the Universities Act, 2021.

This new Act, having repealed and replaced the Universities Act, 2005, has made provision for the establishment of Milton Margai Technical University, Eastern Technical University and Kono University of Science and Technology, and for the continuation of University of Sierra Leone and Njala University. The Act also makes provision for the Ernest Bai Koroma University of Science and Technology. Accordingly, the President ceases to be a Chancellor of all Public Universities, which allows the universities to have their own Chancellors appointed by the President.



Mr. Gilbert H. Cooper
Senior Permanent Secretary

Permanent Secretary's Statement

Three years of our existence as a Ministry is obviously worth-writing home about. Our strides to build and nurture the country's human capital, through effective tertiary and vocational education service delivery, have been manifested in diverse ways, with our unflinching commitment to improving both the formal and non-formal education sector in the country.

We are a go-getting Ministry with an irrepressible motivation to earn quality and merit in all we do. We are dedicated to upholding professional efficiency with a clear vision to heighten our competitive capacity in the international arena.

With a clear understanding of both academic knowledge and vocational skills being at the core of societal advancement, our Ministry has made tremendous progress in various areas but not confined to the following:

- ◇ Through our leadership as a Ministry, the Bill entitled "The Universities Act, 2021" has been debated and passed into law by the Parliament of Sierra Leone
- ◇ We have operationalized a Secretariat for the Skills Development Fund Grant, of which the first grant circle has been completed.
- ◇ As of 2020, we have awarded international scholarships to 374 Sierra Leonean students who are currently pursuing Undergraduate, Masters, and PhD programmes in 12 countries.
- ◇ We are currently working on establishing an ICT Centre of Excellence in Bonthe Island.
- ◇ We are about to develop the National Apprenticeship Scheme.
- ◇ We have refurbished, equipped, and operationalized 10 Government Technical Institutes (GTIs) in 9 districts across the country.
- ◇ A Bill has already been developed by the Student Loan Scheme Committee
- ◇ Our four regional offices, headed by Regional Deputy Directors, have been rehabilitated and equipped.
- ◇ We have established an online scholarship portal.
- ◇ We have secured lands in six districts in order to construct and equip GTIs in areas like Falaba, Makeni, Lungi etc.
- ◇ As a Ministry, through the help of UNIDO, we have secured funding from the Government of Japan to establish and operationalize four Hi-Tech mechanical workshops to train a minimum of 800 youths in various areas in servicing Japanese vehicles.



Dr. Josephus Jeremiah Brimah
Chief Technical and Higher Education Officer

Chief Technical and Higher Education Officer's Message

The Ministry of Technical and Higher Education (MTHE) has its genesis in 2018 by Executive proclamation of H.E. Dr. Julius Maada Bio. It was and is still charged with the sacred responsibility of promoting quality Tertiary, Vocational, and Technical Education (TVET) that will drive Sierra Leone's developmental aspirations northward. As a team responsible to provide leadership in this direction, sound initiatives were put in place to achieve our vision for quality education as provided to service users in all our institutions under the ministry's mandate which includes Colleges, Polytechnics Technical and Vocational Institutes and Universities. One key initiative we took, in concert with our institutions, was the introduction of application and other processes going digital. As a result, all our tertiary institutions have functioning websites. This has helped the institutions concerned, especially at this time of Covid 19, as some online lectures were up and running to enable continuation of our educational programs. We are, however, aware that there are teething problems associated with this venture, but plans are afoot to infuse quality and robustness into the whole process. We do so having in mind that though pandemics are highly improbable, they are not inevitable.

Another strategic venture we have undertaken is the operationalization of ten Government Technical Institutes (GTIs) round the country. We note as a brute fact that there are gaps in the middle-level manpower, and these account for huge economic downfalls to our country in terms of massive youth unemployment. With the setting of the Skills Development Program, our institutions and others in this sector are being strengthened to provide the requisite skills-set for employability. In short, it is "skills for jobs." In terms of our Teacher Training Colleges, Polytechnics and Universities, we have embarked on the harmonization of curricula for some programs, renovating resource centers and working with administration and academic staff for the promotion of collaboration in various research areas. To end, let me express my profound gratitude to staff of the Ministry and ancillary agencies like the TEC and NCTVA. The same goes to all staff in our institutions for tremendous work done to date. Looking forward to making fruitful gains with your support!

Editorial Team's Note



Mr. Sahr Sewa
Information Officer

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his edition of MTHE's Newsletter centers itself around the Ministry's activities in the last eight months of Prof. Alpha Wurie's Administration. Since his appointment as Minister of Technical and Higher Education in January, 2021, he has in concert with the Management and Staff of MTHE made tremendous progress in establishing ways of enhancing a highly-spirited tertiary education sector via effective meetings, collaborations, and consultations with the Ministry's subsidiary academic institutions, other government MDAs, international bodies, and the media.

Prof. Wurie had once served in two respective capacities in President Kabba's Administration as Minister of Education, Youth and Sport, as well as Minister of Education, Science and Technology between 1996 and 2007. His recent appointment as Minister of Technical and Higher Education, succeeding Prof. Aiah A. Gbakima, came at a time he had already served as Minister of Health and Sanitation, where his Ministry won an award as one of the best performing Ministries for 2020.

The Ministry of Technical and Higher Education has not only made intense strides to invest in formal education, but also in Technical, Vocational, Education, and Training (TVET) and skills development programmes with a view to booming the country's non-formal education sector.

The commitment of the Ministry's administrative strata to rendering essential management expertise in the development of Sierra Leone's Human Capital through the implementation of knowledge and skills training programmes that will eventually capacitate individuals for an overall socio-economic growth is evident in the variety of events that have been undertaken by the Ministry.



Mr. Abdul Karim Kabia
Communication Strategist, State House

MTHE's Directorates and Units

Office of the Permanent Secretary

This Office provides administrative oversight of Directorates and Units within the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education. It has the supervisory role of providing management support to successfully implement the operations of the Ministry and its subsidiary institutions.

Office of the Chief Technical and Higher Education Officer

This Office supervises the Professional Wing of the Ministry. It is tasked with the responsibility of initiating, leading, monitoring and evaluating policies and activities relating to Technical and Higher Education in the Ministry. The Office also directs, promotes and coordinates relevant education, training and research activities in line with the National Agenda for sustainable development. It equally proffers advice and directs the development and implementation of educational policies and practices as are related to technical and higher education programs.

Technology and Innovation Directorate

This Directorate is mandated to manage the information technology infrastructure to provide IT services and protect the information technology, data resource and system applications.

Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate

The purpose of this Directorate is to monitor and evaluate the progress of policies, projects and programs within the purview of the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education. This Directorate has the singular task to develop and implement an integrated monitoring and evaluation systems and processes to ensure timely implementation, reporting and feedback of lessons learnt from the rollout out of the policies and programs.

Science and Education Directorate

This Directorate is responsible to advise, support, and monitor educational programs in colleges, universities and polytechnics, as well as taking the lead in digitizing educational programs across the country.

Research Planning and Development Directorate

This Directorate is responsible for effectively coordinating corporate planning, performance management, institutional development, systems strengthening, and research to enhance the Ministry's growth. It also has the mandate to coordinate the development and implementation of corporate strategic plans to ensure the achievement of set indicators.

Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Directorate

This Division is concerned with managing the acquisition of knowledge and skills that are relevant for the job market. It focuses on supporting individual students and teachers, as well as complementing the efforts of the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education (MTHE), National Council for Technical, Vocational and other Academic Awards (NCTVA), and the Teaching Service Commission (TSC) in their quest to heighten non-formal education.

Human Resource Unit

This Unit is responsible for managing MTHE's human capital to meet its established objectives. It is also tasked with the mandate to supervise the productivity and performance of the entire workforce, ensure compliance with employment regulations, and guarantee the interests and wellbeing of employees.

Information Unit

This Unit is responsible to monitor media coverage of public affairs, brief and advice political officials, manage media relations, and provide information directly to the public. It has the role of formulating communication strategies and campaigns as well as researching and assessing public opinions.

Procurement Unit

The responsibilities of this unit are to follow and enforce public procurement policies and procedures within the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education, prepare procurement plans for the purchase of goods, works and services, and maintain accurate purchase and pricing records. It also has the responsibility of ensuring that approved purchases are of sufficient quality and are cost-efficient.

Budget Unit

The purpose of the Budget Unit is to provide technical support and guidance to the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education (MTHE) in the preparation of Mid Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) budget estimates, ensure that legislative mandates are accurately translated in budget preparations and executions at MDA level, monitor budget expenditures to ensure that they remain within authorized levels, and ensure compliance with Financial Regulations and Rules. The Unit also has the responsibility to act as an advisor to MTHE in formulating their budget submissions and to provide advice and guidance as required to the MDA, liaise with the Budget Unit with respect to sector budget training programs, and examine capital budget requests and issue recommendations to the approval committee.

Account Unit

The Account Unit has the responsibility to ensure internal control mechanisms within the financial management operations to ensure that expenditure does not exceed budgeted allocations, do monthly bank reconciliation statement on the various accounts maintained within the Ministry, and ensure compliance in the operations of the financial management regulations of 2018. It acts as liaison between the Office of the Accountant General and the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education (MTHE), review, verify and act on both requests and returns from institutions that are under the mandate of MTHE

Internal Audit Unit

The Internal Audit unit ensures strict adherence to all control procedures introduced to safeguard the assets and records of the Ministry, monitors the execution of the budget by the Ministry and report promptly on any irregularity, makes periodic reports on audits completed, and reviews implementation of the Auditor General's or other external auditor's recommendations. This Unit also reviews all contracts of the Ministry to ensure effective performance and value for money, continuously reviews effectiveness and efficiency of internal control systems and procedures, and offers advice on internal controls of the Ministry.

Stores and Inventory Unit

The general responsibility of this Unit involves receiving, recording and storing government stores and assets for effective inventory control and assets management in Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

The Stores and Inventory Unit emanates from the Directorate of Stores and Inventory under the Ministry of Finance, and it is charged with the following responsibilities:

- To be responsible for the day-to-day record keeping of inventories, goods, works and services procured from public funds, gifts or donations
- To manage the existing stores and personnel assigned to carryout stores functions
- To ensure that the right quantity and quality of goods are supplied by contractors at the right delivery points
- To establish record management system both manual and electronic that can be used for research, statistics, planning, budgeting, accounting, auditing and appraisal purposes

OVER 2,000 STUDENTS RECEIVE SL-GIA AWARDS FOR 2020/2021 ACADEMIC YEAR



Mr. Idrissa Sannoh
Student Secretary

The 2020/2021 academic year Sierra Leone Government Grant – In- Aid (GIA) was meant for Sierra Leonean students and Government of Sierra Leone staff who are pursuing courses in Public Technical and other Tertiary Institutions and are faced with financial difficulties.

Students all over Sierra Leone were given equal opportunity to fill and submit the Sierra Leone Government Grant- In-Aid application forms through the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education online portal system for almost a month. The application process started

on 4th March, 2021 and ended on 5th April, 2021.

For the period ending 5th April, 2021, the Ministry received six thousand, one hundred and twenty five (6,125) applications from students emanating from sixteen districts and are currently attending public technical and higher institutions in Sierra Leone. Due to constricted budget to cover tuition fees for applicants, the Minister and the top management of the Ministry decided to conduct interviews to award two thousand seven hundred and fifty (2,750) scholarship to suitable and qualified students across the sixteen districts of Sierra Leone. As a result of Financial constraint from the Ministry of Finance and the COVID-19 Pandemic protocols, the conduct of the interview commenced on 12th July, 2021 and ended on 21st July, 2021.

However, the Ministry noticed during the time of interviews that some students:

- ◆ applied but were not contacted through the SMS for interviews
- ◆ were contacted but their names were not on the published list of interviewees
- ◆ had problems with uploading their application and/documents on the portal and therefore used paper application, progress report and acceptance letters

To address their concerns, the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education (MTHE)'s Top Management agreed to establish a help desk called Complaint and Redress Desk, during the course of the interviews to look into applicants' reports / claims and to interview students that showed up for interview and had completed first year in any of the Government public institutions. Interview of all students ended on 21st July, 2021.

A total of 6,125 online, 150 Forces (Military- 45 & Police- 105) and 90 applications from teachers that have taught for over twenty five years were received and automatically shortlisted, as it was agreed by Top Management that all applicants would be interviewed, and all 4th Year students that applied and attended interviews should be awarded.

The interviews were done in all sixteen districts head quarter towns and 2,750 students were awarded (Undergraduate = 2,684; TVET= 55; Masters= 9; PhD =2). (*Awaiting names of Lecturer from Public institutions, government agency to be awarded for upgrading*). The gender break down of awardees shows 60% (1618) Male and 40% (1082) female.

Support for Government of Sierra Leone staff capacity development needs as a result of the upgrading of some of the learning institutions, the Scholarship Awards Committee, headed by the Chief Technical and Higher Education Officer (CTHEO), awarded nine (9) Master's and two (2) Ph.D. scholarships to civil servants and academic instructors whose names were submitted by the MTHE Deputy Director of Human Resource, whilst waiting for the names of lecturers from public institutions.

During the Awarding process, the Scholarship Committee also awarded ninety-five (all under graduate) out of 150 applications received from the forces (Military 45, Police 50) that neither applied through the Ministry portal system nor being interviewed. However, this category of students were awarded to support government's commitment to developing human capacity.

The Ministry received a very high number of applications for beneficiaries of teachers; the Scholarship Committee considered applications of children whose parents are teachers who had taught for 26+ years (75) and 25years (15) that did not apply. Ninety (90) teachers' beneficiaries were awarded.

The documents that were requested from candidates during interviews included:

- Admission Letters from University
- Students' Identification Cards.
- Birth Certificate
- Printed online application form

The interview questions posed to each student ranged from subject specific questions and general knowledge. They were and graded independently by all members of the interview panel. The averages of the pooled grades were entered against the candidate's name. The areas considered for grading included:

- Appearance ethics – 5%
- Evidence for Qualification- 25%
- Response to Questions – 70%

Priority was given to candidates pursuing the following programmes: Sciences, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, Mathematics (STEAM), Medicine, French and Tourism.

Names of Awardees were collated from the district-recommended award list submitted by the Regional Deputy Directors and Supervisors. Five senior staff from the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education supervised and coordinated the interview process to ensure quality, and efficiency of MTHE staff and Non-MTHE staff that were entrusted with the interview process.

MTHE Deserves Commendation

Quality in both higher and technical education has become quite crucial in Sierra Leone's strategic plans towards catching up with what obtains in the developed world. The output of the country's educational



Mr. Sahr Sewa
Information Officer

service, which constitutes the evidence of quality, is linked up with the tremendous achievements the Government of Sierra Leone has made so far through the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education (MTHE). As a Ministry responsible to train the workforce of this country, MTHE's team-based approach has over the years placed it in a steadfast position; the Ministry's successes rest on its staff strength and collaborative spirit.

Three years ago, MTHE was established as a new Ministry by the Government of Sierra Leone, and since inception, it has shown nothing less than affirmative outputs in a range of implemented and forthcoming activities. The Ministry has manifested leadership in diverse ways through its untiring com-

mitment to reinforcing quality and standard in both technical and higher education in the country.

On 8th July, 2021, the Parliament of Sierra Leone, through MTHE's leadership, debated and enacted the Universities Act, 2021. This new Act, having repealed and replaced the Universities Act, 2005, has made provision for the establishment of Milton Margai Technical University, Eastern Technical University and Kono University of Science and Technology, and for the continuation of University of Sierra Leone and Njala University. The Act also makes provision for the Ernest Bai Koroma University of Science and Technology. Accordingly, H.E the President ceases to be a Chancellor of all public universities, which allows the universities to have their own Chancellors appointed by the President.

MTHE's achievements can equally be traced to the resolution of an industrial strike action by lecturers of three public universities (University of Sierra Leone, Njala University and Ernest Bai Koroma University of Science and Technology) which had been going on for quite an extensive period of time before the Ministry's notable intervention. In April this year, the Government of Sierra Leone did make a salary increment of 50% for lecturers in the aforementioned universities. The Ministry is keen to enhance staff training and capacity development for lecturers in a bid to foster efficiency in technical and higher education institutions across the country.

With regards Technical, Vocational, Education and Training (TVET), which is a subset of MTHE's deliverables, the Ministry is about to construct 6 new Government Technical Institutes (GTIs) in 6 strategic districts/locations across the country, in addition to the 10 already existing ones. Human capital development, being one of Government's national strategic objectives, cannot be detached from the improvement of TVET infrastructures, which will ultimately enhance skills development for middle level manpower. MTHE takes the lead in developing, promoting and managing skills development through TVET.

The Skills Development Project (SDP) is a \$22 million funded project, of which \$20 million was provided by the World Bank while \$2 million was provided by the Government of Sierra Leone as a counterpart funding.

The Skills Development Fund (SDF) has two 'windows', catering for different target groups. Window 1 supports improvement of the quality and relevance of formal and non-formal TVET, and Window 2 addresses skills gaps and skills shortage experienced by private enterprises in the formal and informal sectors of the economy.

Starting with Window 1, the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education has approved grant of about US\$ 12 million to 63 grantees in virtually all districts across the country. Such laudable venture has the potential to support demand-led training and skills development with a view to addressing key challenges in the labor market, particularly to encourage job creation and growth of the country's economy.

Strides to provide an enabling environment for students' capacity building with the knowledge and skills to meet the social and economic needs of society are at the heart of the Government of Sierra Leone. Thus, MTHE has over the years been awarding Grant-in-Aid (GIA) to qualified and deserving students pursuing higher and technical education, especially those that are faced with financial constraints. With an overriding objective to enhance a productive labor force in the country, the Government of Sierra Leone, through MTHE, has awarded 2,750 GIA to undergraduate students for the 2020/2021 academic year. This is quite important, in that part of this amount comprises GIA awarded to Government Technical Institutes (GTIs). The Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie, has always emphasized the need to give credence to hands-on education in the National Qualifications Framework (NQFs). This would allow technical and vocational students to trust that these options are as useful as academic options. According to Prof. Wurie, a child should be able to access a technical university from technical options without taking the WACCSE.

The 2020/2021 academic year, which started in March, 2021, happens to be an abridged academic year. Nonetheless, plans are already in place to end the session in September, 2021 in a bid to provide a smooth transition into the 2021/2022 academic year, which is expected to commence in October this year. This would eventually reposition higher academic institutions to go by the original academic calendar to promote efficiency of learning in the country.

Few months ago, the dynamic Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie, took a tour around all public universities and polytechnics across the country with a view to entreating their respective administrations to heighten their staff capacity and quality of outputs as well as review their course options in line with the requirements of the labor force. There is no gainsaying that for every programme a university seeks to undertake, there must be possibility of sustainability for it.

Very recently, MTHE, together with the Ministries of Finance and Basic and Senior Secondary Education, did participate in signing a \$ 68 million funding agreement with two consulting firms, vis-à-vis Ideas Ltd & Alhabshree JV and Engineering Consultants Group (ECG) based in Egypt for the design and supervision of various office buildings and classrooms under the Sierra Leone Education Sector Support Project (SLESSP). The project, which was declared effective in February, 2021 and expected to close in March, 2024, is in a bid to improve on the quality and accessibility to education in hard-to-reach communities of the country. The important thing is that such impressive undertaking clearly underscores how passionate MTHE can be in its quest to uphold academic efficacy.

With its stanch belief in striving for academic and technical excellence, the Ministry shall certainly keep thriving in its ventures.

500 Post-Graduate Students to Benefit from Student Loan Scheme

In July, 2020, the Student Loan Scheme was jointly put together by the Ministries of Technical and Higher Education and Finance to actualize the vision of H.E. President Bio to ensure quality education in the country. For decades now many Sierra Leoneans have been denied the opportunity to acquire quality tertiary education due to lack of access to funding. Govern-



Mr. Paul Amara
National Coordinator, Student Loan Scheme

ment therefore intends to do a pilot phase of the Student Loan Scheme by providing loan to five hundred Post-Graduate candidates. This pilot phase gives every Sierra Leonean an opportunity to assess the impact of the scheme and properly evaluate the activities to ensure that public trust is gained.

The recent spate of strike actions and violence in public universities happen because students and lecturers are not provided with the conducive environment to operate, which, among other reasons, precipitated the rollout of the Student Loan Scheme. The rollout will be done with full commitment, and eventually the loan scheme shall be open to the entire student body, both undergraduate and post graduate. It had been clear to government that Sierra Leonean students are willing to acquire higher education at any cost. The Student Loan Scheme is one way to provide funding to students to access higher education.

Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Directorate

The number of unskilled and underemployed youth in Sierra Leone is dreadfully staggering. This is occasioned by the previously fragmented, uncoordinated and unsustainable management of the TVET sector. Anecdotal information and results from multiple social research analyses (UNDP 2018, Skills Development Gap Analysis, 2020 & MTHE Census, 2020) in the last five years, have empirically confirmed that the number of young and unskilled people in Sierra Leone is drastically rising, taking a serious socio-economic toll on the country.



A couple of years ago a new government (the SLPP) came to power. One of the national strategic objectives of the *New Direction Government* is to develop human capital in general, but specifically to improve on TVET infrastructures that would enhance skills development for middle level manpower (Human Resource Capacity Development). The responsibility to develop, promote and manage skills development through TVET rests squarely with the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education. Thus, the MTHE, with support from its partners, developed a new TVET policy designed to address specific gaps and potentials. The TVET Policy Framework has six (6) strategic drivers

- i. Improving TVET Coordination and Management
- ii. Enhancing Access to TVET Programs
- iii. Improving Relevance of Training
- iv. Developing Skills for Jobs
- v. Promoting productivity in the Non-formal TVET
- vi. And Assuring Sustainable TVET Funding

Key Updates on TVET

Areas	Progress	Comments
Apprenticeship Policy	ToR developed for consultant	Exploring funding opportunities
	Internal MTHE discussions started	Target to Publish is December, 2021
	Two brief external consulta-	
Non-formal TVET	Started regional consultations in Bo and Makeni	Small support from WB, WHH and MADAM
	Consultant reviewed desk documents and, conducting interviews	
	Consultant developed a tentative skeleton policy framework to populate and review	
	Validation of draft policy comes later by end of September	
	Later printing and distribution	
Integration of Entrepreneurship	MTHE and Madam in Makeni are implementing entrepreneurship skills training to ensure business creative, solving and economic problems through business can transform a society	
	6 TVET centres to pilot EST	

MTHE Participates in Signing \$68M Funding Agreement for SLESSP

On 28th July, 2021, the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education, together with the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, signed a funding agreement with two consulting firms, vis-à-vis IDEAS Ltd & ALHABSHREE JV as well as Engineering Consultants Group (ECG) based in Egypt, for the design and supervision of various office buildings and classrooms under the Sierra Leone Education Sector Support Project (SLESSP) at the Ministry of Finance, George Street.

The project, which is worth up to the tune of \$68M, was funded by Saudi Development Fund (SDF) with the sum of \$25M, OPC Fund for International Development (OFID) with the sum of \$20M, African Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) with the sum of \$20M, and the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) with the sum of \$3M.

Being approved in June, 2019 to provide support to the education sector with a view to improving on the quality and accessibility to education in hard-to-reach communities of the country, the SLESSP was declared effective in February, 2021, and is expected to close on 31st March, 2024.

The Deputy Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Mr. Sarjoh Aziz-Kamara, expressed delight in being part of such a historic moment of the signing ceremony of a \$68M project for educational support, noting its timeliness in coming at a time when the Universities Act of 2021 has just passed through Parliament. He implored the consultants



to ensure the timely implementation of the project, appreciating the donors and assuring them of his Ministry's unwavering commitment throughout the project implementation.

According to SLESSP's Project Coordinator, Ing. Neilford Rose, the project is concerned with two main components, the Technical and Higher Education Component and the Basic and Senior Secondary Education Component.

He disclosed that the Technical and Higher Education Component would target the reconstruction of Bunumbu Teachers' College (including the Eastern Polytechnic) with new construction areas of 16,420 square meters and reconstruction of 27,000 square meters, and the re-construction of the Milton Margai College of Education and Technology (including the College of Tourism at Goderich, Congo Cross and Brookfields Campuses) with new construction areas of 27,000 square meters and re-construction of 21,400 square meters. He added that the Basic and Senior Secondary Education Component would target the re-construction of four (4) public secondary schools located in four different regions of the country, vis-à-vis Bo Government Secondary School in the South, Kenema Government Secondary School in the East, Magburaka Boys Secondary School in the North, and Prince of Wales School in the Western Area, with new construction areas of 31,250 square meters and re-construction of 74,700 square meters, as well as the construction of a seven-floor administrative building for the Ministry in Freetown, covering an area of 3,136 square meters.

He further mentioned that the consultancy contract awarded to IDEAS Ltd is to cover Eastern Polytechnic (Bunumbu Teachers College), Kenema Secondary School and Bo School for the amount of \$525,000, whereas the contract awarded to Engineering Consultancy Group (ECG) based in Egypt is to cover Milton Margai College of Education and Technology, The Prince of Wales School, the Magburuka Boys Secondary School and the Administrative Building of the Ministry of Education for the amount of \$896,399.

The Deputy Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, Emily Kadiatu Gogra, attributed the success of the SLESSP to their best practice as a Government, noting her Ministry's collaboration with the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education in the entire process. "Today is the first step of implementation, having the consultants to commit themselves. As a Ministry we are so overwhelmed that this project is spread out to the four regions...", she said. She appreciated all stakeholders for the timely delivery of the project.

In his keynote address, the Minister of Finance, Mr. Dennis Vandy, noted that the SLESSP, as one of the priorities of Government, falls within the framework of the country's human capital development and promotion of education, by universalizing education and raising its quality and efficiency. He mentioned the significance of the project in line with the fourth objective of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the Strategic Plan of the Education Sector 2018-2020, urging the consultants to demonstrate true expertise as stated in their company profiles. He implored the consultants to work closely with the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) and the beneficiary institutions to ensure that their needs are met.



MTHE, MBSSE Deliberate on Construction Design of Ministerial Building



On 17th August, 2021, the Ministries of Technical and Higher Education and Basic and Senior Secondary Education met and deliberated on the design and construction of an Administrative Building for both Ministries through the Education Sector Support Project (ESSP). The meeting was held at the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education's Conference Room, New England Ville.

Being a product of a \$68M funding agreement which was signed at the Ministry of Finance on 28th July this year for the design and construction of various buildings and classrooms under the ESSP, the meeting

was geared towards soliciting the views of the two Ministries with regards how they would want the seven-story building to be constructed.

The Deputy Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Mr. Sarjoh Aziz-Kamara, commended the fast-paced efforts of the consultants in moving the project forward. He expressed sincere delight over the laudable idea of housing the two Ministries in one building. "We are looking at having a building that enhances our functionality, but also that is targeted at achieving His Excellency's intent of promoting quality education," he said, adding that seeing both Ministries as one sector will promote efficiency in service delivery. He encouraged members present to look at concepts that will keep them together as well as make the building a fully-functional one with all the necessary facilities to make it conducive.

The Deputy Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, Madam Emily Kadiatu Gogra, registered her appreciation for the progresses made in so far as the project is concerned, noting that both Ministries will continue to work as a sector. She recommended that the Free Education Project, School Feeding, Teaching Service Commission and UNESCO be housed in one building with the Ministries to address issues relating to the excessive sum of money that Government usually pays for them as rent, adding that a training space should also be considered as part of the construction design.

"...we want to see what has been the shift from the time of the conception of this project to date. You should be able to make sure that in the design process the consultants are fully aware of your current needs, and that will be captured in the designs to be done," said ESSP's Project Coordinator, Ing. Neilford Rose. According to Ing. Rose, a total amount of about \$2.4M has been allocated for the design of the seven story building.

The Technical Director of Edward & Associates, Sibyl Herleston, encouraged both Ministries to make their views known with regards how they would want the building to look like, adding that the entire construction design process could only be informed by the needs of both Ministries. She recommended that subsequent meetings be held with a view to bringing in other important stakeholders that will add value to the project.

The meeting was climaxed by a conducted tour of the available land space intended to be used for the construction project.

AIUWA to Be Established in Sierra Leone

The Ministry of Technical and Higher Education (MTHE) on 11th August, 2021 at its office in New England Ville had an engagement with the Chancellor and Founder President of American International University West Africa (AIUWA), Dinesh Shukla, with a view to establishing the University in Sierra Leone and expanding its academic programmes to the country.

The American International University, having been established in The Gambia in 2011, is a registered and approved institution of higher education by the Government of The Gambia, offering medical programmes leading to Doctor of Medicine Degree.

In his opening statement, the Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie, welcomed the Chancellor and Team and applauded them for such a laudable venture. He entreated them to give considerable importance to Medical Laboratory Sciences, urging members present to put more resources into medical academia. "Science is a major investment indeed...we as a country need further expansion of medical training," he said.



AIUWA 's Chancellor and Founder President, Dinesh Shukla, noted that the institution has gotten the finances to move forward in an expeditious manner but that they will have to follow due process in achieving the overall goal. He appreciated the Management of MTHE for being very receptive, registering their commitment as an institution to ensuring that the entire process becomes a success for Sierra Leone's Academia.

According to MTHE's Permanent Secretary, Mr. Gilbert Cooper, the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) is responsible for regulating tertiary education in the country, and therefore, there is need for a Committee to be set up to engage the TEC on how to enhance the process.

The meeting was attended by a host of dignitaries including the Deputy Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Mr. Sarjoh Aziz-Kamara; Sierra Leone's High Commissioner to The Gambia, Her Excellency Mrs. Lucretia Marian Shreef; MTHE's Chief Technical and Higher Education Officer, Dr. Josephus Brimah; Deputy Chief Technical and Higher Education Officer, Mrs. Musu Gorvie; and Director of Research, Planning and Development, Ms. Sia Fasuluku.

MTHE Joins Orange in Donating 500 KVA Generator to Njala University

The Deputy Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Mr. Sajoh Aziz-Kamara, and other government dignitaries joined Orange Sierra Leone Limited to donate a 500 KVA generator to Njala University, Njala Campus on 23rd July, 2021. The event, which took place at the University's Auditorium



was followed by cutting of the ribbon and switching on of the generator, including a conducted tour around the Campus.

In his welcome address, the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Njala University (Njala campus), Prof. Bashiru M. Koroma, thanked Orange for their kind gesture in considering one of the most important needs of Njala, which is effective energy supply. He expressed appreciation to the Chief Minister, Mr. Jacob Jusu Saffa, for facilitating the process behind the donation to relieve the burden of Njala Campus' electricity crisis, noting that it is a clear indication of the Chief Minister's belief in the

enhancement of education. He assured members of the University Administration's commitment to enhancing academic prowess in the three core values of Njala University, vis-à-vis teaching, research and community outputs.

The Deputy Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Mr. Sarjoh Aziz-Kamara, expressed delight in being part of such a remarkable event, noting that it speaks to the collaborative commitment of both Orange and the Government of Sierra Leone to improving quality in the country's educational system. He noted the ongoing efforts in ensuring that Njala University's core discipline in agriculture does not get lost. According to Mr. Aziz-Kamara, there has been significant advancement in the reformation of university education, taking into consideration the transformation of Milton Margai College of Education and Technology (MMCET) and Eastern Polytechnic into technical universities, and the establishment of a new technical university in Kono. He further intimated members of the Student Loan Scheme Bill, which has been gazetted to create opportunities for those without finance. He entreated the University to take advantage of the opportunity, stressing the need to ensure the generator's sustainability.

The Acting Vice Chancellor and Principal of Njala University, Prof. Andrew Baimba, mentioned the relevance of the machine to them, adding that the University embraces it with open arms. He pointed out that electricity supply at Njala Campus has been very expensive, appreciating Orange for supporting them with such a donation in addition to the previous support they have rendered over the years.

He further expressed delight over the presence of the Deputy Minister of Energy, Dr. Eldred Taylor, entreating the Ministry of Energy to keep supporting Njala Campus with effective power supply to enhance its relevance to its host community.

The Pro-Chancellor of Njala University, Mr. David Carew, expressed delight in receiving a delegation from the Government of Sierra Leone in commissioning the machine provided by Orange-Sierra Leone. He thanked the Chief Minister for having pushed to see that the vision was realised. According to Mr. Carew, the presence of a delegation from the Government of Sierra Leone symbolizes the importance of education to them. He further requested for government's support in providing fuel for the machine, its maintenance, salary for the people that will be managing it etc. "We must find a way to be able to support that cost... we must find a way to make the generator sustainable," he said. He encouraged the university staff and students to start visualizing the possibility that they may have to pay for electricity supply with a view to enhancing the machine's sustainability.

According to the Managing Director of Orange Foundation Sierra Leone Limited, Ms. Jestina Betts, teaching cannot be effective in the absence of electricity power. She mentioned that the donation is to address the growing needs of adequate power supply at Njala Campus. "This project reflects our commitment to contributing to social goals by engaging and supporting sustainable development in Sierra Leone," she said. According to Ms. Betts, Orange believes strongly that education and human capital development will be one of the strongest pillars for growth in Sierra Leone, noting that the donation of the generator adds to the list of support Orange has been giving to Njala in past years.

The Deputy Minister of Energy, Dr. Eldred Taylor, thanked Orange for the partnership that has existed between them and the Ministry of Energy, looking forward to such seamless relationship in subsequent years. He thanked Orange for showcasing its commitment to its corporate social responsibility. Dr. Taylor assured those present of his Ministry's commitment to addressing the issue of maintenance of the machine, adding that such visit was not their first in coming to Njala's aid when there is a crisis. According to the Deputy Minister, his Ministry is working towards getting an integrated package which would look at the generation, distribution, and metering component. "If the students and offices are metered, I think you will be able to have enough returns," he envisaged.

The Minister of Information and Communications, Mr. Mohamed Rahman Swaray, applauded Orange for upholding their goodwill by contributing to the country's education, and by extension its human capital development, which is at the heart of the New Direction Government. According to Mr. Swaray, Sierra Leone has missed out on three industrial revolutions, and Government is very keen on ensuring that the country does not miss out on the fourth industrial revolution. "...this Government remains committed to creating an enabling environment for the private sector to operate and thrive, so that they will continue to create more jobs and contribute more to tax revenue and CSR commitment," he said.

The Chief Minister, Mr. Jacob Jusu Saffa, mentioned Government's focus on human capital development, which ties itself to the collaboration between the Government of Sierra Leone and development stakeholders (including Orange) in ensuring that the country's educational institutions are being provided with their essential needs. According to Mr. Saffa, the Office of the Chief Minister has a mandate to facilitate programmes that are anchored on academic enrichment, assuring members of Government's continued supervision of technical and higher education in the country.

MTHE's Deputy Minister Attends Chinese Ambassador Scholarship Awards Ceremony



On 22nd July, 2021, the Deputy Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Mr. Sarjoh Aziz-Kamara, together with the Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, Dr. David Senggeh, and a host of other dignitaries, joined the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Sierra Leone, H.E Hu Zhangliang, to present Chinese Amb-

sador Scholarships to 22 college and university students and 125 basic and senior secondary school pupils across the country.

The event took place at the Economic and Commercial Office of the Chinese Embassy at 42 OAU Village, Hill Station.

The Deputy Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Mr. Sarjoh Aziz Kamara, appreciated the long-standing support of the Chinese Government to Sierra Leone, adding that there are currently 155 Sierra Leonean students who have registered with the Sierra Leone Embassy in the People's Republic of China, pursuing different academic programmes. He also appreciated the Chinese Government for awarding scholarship to 48 Sierra Leonean students who are currently in-country and have not been able to travel because of the Covid Pandemic as well as the 20 students who came for holidays and have also not returned because of travelling bans. According to Mr. Aziz-Kamara, the support of the Chinese Government to Sierra Leone serves as a key driver to sustainable growth and human capital development. He noted that China has over the years shown true solidarity and genuine friendship to Sierra Leone, noting his Ministry's commitment in collaborating with China to advance key areas of development.

He expressed warm congratulations to all the college students and the primary and secondary school pupils who are qualified for the scholarships. H.E Hu Zhangliang also applauded the Government of Sierra Leone for upholding the genuine friendship that has existed between the two countries. He intimated members about China's support to Sierra Leone in previous years, continuing that recent years have seen the bilateral cooperation between China and Sierra Leone further expanded and deepened with fruitful outcomes.

H.E Hu Zhangliang noted that the scholarship programme, which has benefited a total of 115 students to date, was setup few years ago to support the local tertiary education in Sierra Leone with a view to heightening outstanding academic performance and positive attitude towards promoting China[1]Sierra Leone friendship. He added that the grant awarded to 125 needy primary and secondary school pupils this year aims at attaching great importance to the Free Quality Education. He further expressed his heartfelt delight in having a host of government dignitaries attending the ceremony. He appreciated the Deputy Minister of Technical and Higher Education and the Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education for sparing their precious time to grace the event, applauding the two Ministries for the promotion of educational cooperation between Sierra Leone and China.

He noted China's commitment to promoting Sierra Leone's human capital development, which according to him is of vital importance to the economic and social recovery of any country. "The Chinese Government has sponsored over 1,000 Sierra Leonean students to study in China under the Chinese Government Scholarship Programme; similarly, Chinese Government has invited more than 5,100 Sierra Leonean friends from all walks of life to short term training courses in the past 20 years ," he said.

The Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, Dr. David Sengeh, applauded the Chinese Government for the diversity of activities that it regularly helps Sierra Leone with. He noted that scholarships from China have always been perceived to benefit only higher and technical education, adding that the direct benefit to basic and senior secondary education this year is a laudable attainment. "Our traditional friendship and friendly cooperation have been constantly strengthened and enriched with tangible results achieved," he mentioned.

MTHE Hosts Chief Minister on Institutional Needs



The Ministry of Technical and Higher Education has held discussions with the Chief Minister, Mr. Jacob Jusu Saffa, on key areas of support for the Ministry. The meeting took place on 6th July, 2021 at the Ministry's conference room at New England Ville.

In his statement, the Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie, stressed the need to critically look at the Ministry from its two main arms, vis-à-vis the technical arm and the higher education arm. He intimated the Chief Minister

on the inexistence of a Directorate of Higher Education in the Ministry since its establishment, recommending that there be some form of consultancy in a bid to address the existing gap. According to Prof. Wurie, the Directorate of Research, Planning and Development needs more personnel to enhance efficiency its quality of service delivery. He further mentioned the inadequacy of water in the public universities with specific reference to Fourah Bay College, especially in the dry season, entreating the Office of the Chief Minister to see how electronic water pump and a storage tank for raw water could be made available to deal with such concern. Prof. Alpha Wurie further mentioned that Njala University has over the years generated its own water and electricity which has been quite challenging to them as a university, commending the Chief Minister for exhibiting leadership in approaching Orange to provide Njala with a 500-kva generator.

The Chief Minister, Mr. Jacob Jusu Saffa, thanked the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education for hosting him, applauding Prof. Wurie for his tremendous outputs in ensuring that technical and higher education are properly heightened. He mentioned the centrality of his Office in coordinating, facilitating and following-up on the mandate of other ministries, departments and agencies. According to Mr. Saffa, the Office of the Chief Minister was initially created without knowledge of its operational mandate, adding that key amongst the reason for his visit was to enhance better understanding of his role as Chief Minister, recognize key deliverables of the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education in terms of its ongoing projects, its challenges, and how his office can be used to render support. He assured the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education of his unflinching commitment to ensuring that its existing challenges are addressed.

Prof. Wurie Entreats Stakeholders to Create Equivalence between Technical/Vocational Education and Academic Education

The Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie, on 29th June, 2021 implored development stakeholders to give as much importance to technical and vocational education as it is for mainframe academic education.



He made this statement during a workshop on Sierra Leone's National Qualifications

Framework (NQFs) organized by the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education (MTHE), National Council for Technical, Vocational and other Academic Awards (NCTVA), and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) at the New Brookfields Hotel, Jumu Kenyatta Road.

According to Prof Wurie, recognizing the differences with regards prospects between a hands-on tertiary institution and a research/publication university in the NQFs would allow technical and vocational students to trust that their options are as useful as academic options. He pointed out that a child should be able to access a technical university from technical options without taking the WASSCE, adding that there is need to have a larger number of people in the technical and vocational sector than the academic sector to enhance national economic growth.

“The gap is acceptability; the gap is for people to appreciate the fact that technical education is not a weakened education. ...our mainframe has to be how we can improve the acceptability of this educational framework,” he noted.

MTHE TAKES THE LEAD IN QUALITY ASSURANCE AT NJALA UNIVERSITY



The Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie, on 21st June, 2021 held discussions with the Administrative Staff and students of Njala University at the University's Auditorium, Njala Campus.

His engagement was aimed at entreating the Administration to heighten its staff capacity and quality of outputs, with much premium on the core sciences for which the University was originally created as well as presenting teaching and learning materials to the university.

In his welcome address, the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Njala University, Prof. Bashiru Koroma, thanked the Minister and team for answering to their clarion call. He assured members of their commitment to dealing with outcome-based education with specificity on research, teaching and community outputs. He implored the Minister to pay keen attention to their constraints in the area of electricity and water supply with a view to getting them well addressed.

The Acting Vice Chancellor and Principal of Njala University, Prof. Osman Alimamy Sankoh, expressed delight at hosting the entire entourage from the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education. He thanked the Minister for being very instrumental in ensuring that Njala University exists as an independent entity detached from University of Sierra Leone since 2005. He also applauded Prof. Alpha Wurie for exhibiting leadership in resolving the recent industrial strike action which had gone on for too long before his appointment to the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education. He further requested for consistent support from the Ministry, as there is a range of constraints they are faced with as a University.

Njala University's Pro Chancellor, Prof. Andrew Baimba, appreciated the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education for the rate of confidence displayed in appointing him as the incoming Vice Chancellor. He assured members of his outright dedication to the transformation of the University to greater heights.

In his keynote address, the Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie, admonished the Administration of Njala to reevaluate its staff strength and give maximum credence to courses that are fundamental to the formation of the University. According to Prof. Wurie, for every programme that a university seeks to undertake, there must be authority, funding and possibility of sustainability for it. He further implored the University Administration to work closely with Teaching Service Commission in a bid to assimilate the students produced in each of their programmes.

The event was maxed out by the Minister's tour around the campus and his presentation of teaching and learning materials to the university, followed by the reception of a gift from the Students' Union.

MTHE Visits Staff and Students of MMCET



In a bid to discuss government's commitment to transforming Milton Margai College of Education and Technology (MMCET) into a technical university and to turn the sod for the construction of a multi-purpose building at their Goderich Campus, the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education had an engagement with staff and students of MMCET on 15th June, 2021.

In his welcome address, the Vice Principal of MMCET, Dr. Mohamed Ali Jalloh, thanked the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education for answer-

ing to their clarion call and listening to their challenges with the hope of getting them satisfactorily addressed. He attributed the remarkable successes they have recorded as an institution for the past three years to the progressive outputs of their Principal, Dr. Philip Kanu, with tremendous support from the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education.

MMCET's Chairman of Council, Dr. Victor Kabia, commended the Ministry for taking such a bold step in ensuring that the College becomes a technical university, assuring members of their readiness as an institution to make the country proud, particularly so with a Principal who is brave enough to initiate and face changes in the country's higher education sector. He admonished the Parliamentarians to consider their interests when transforming the University Bill of 2021 into an Act.

The Chairman of Parliamentary Oversight Committee on Technical and Higher Education, Hon. Festus Mohamed Lansana, noted the importance of the Legislative Arm of Government in transforming MMCET into a technical university, assuring members of their willingness to support the University Bill of 2021 and ensure it becomes an Act. He mentioned the College's strength in terms of infrastructure and staff capacity, which are quite critical in the transformation process.

According to the Chairman of the Legislative Committee in the House of Parliament, Hon. Abdul Maray Conteh, Parliament is pleased with the ongoing transformation at MMCET. He mentioned government's commitment to leaving a legacy that will stand the test of time, registering his passion, together with his Committee, to ensure that the dream of MMCET in becoming a university gets realized.

The Principal of MMCET, Dr. Philip Kanu, expressed his heartfelt delight over Prof. Alpha Wurie's response to their call, noting that the institution's initial transformation from a teacher college into a university in 2001 was during his time as Minister of Education. He therefore mentioned his confidence that the vision to transform it into a technical university will equally be realized during his time as Minister of Technical and Higher Education.

In his keynote address, the Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie, assured members of government's vision to ensure that the first set of students are enrolled into the University in October, 2021. He commended the College for having placed itself well enough in terms of infrastructure, quality of academic staff and outputs of students. He further noted government's plan to have at least a university in every region of the country and a college per district. According to Prof. Wurie, the first thing that must happen is the legislative infrastructure, and he therefore commended the Parliamentarians for making a commitment to convert the University Bill of 2021 into an Act.

MTHE Holds a Dialogue Session with Staff and Students of Eastern Polytechnic

The Ministry of Technical and Higher Education on 11th June, 2021 held a dialogue session with Academic and Administrative Staff and the Students' Union Government of Eastern Polytechnic at Ahmed Tejan Kabba Hall in Kenema District.

The meeting was in a bid to hear the needs and challenges of the Institution with a view to providing sustainable remedies to them.

In his welcome address, the Principal of Eastern Polytechnic, Prof. Mohamed Konneh, thanked the Ministry for giving them the opportunity to discuss pertinent issues to their Institution's growth. He appreciated the Government of Sierra Leone, through the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education, for having given them staff capacity-building opportunities in the area of international scholarships to their Staff, regular payment of salaries and subventions, the 50% salary adjustment etc.



The President of Academic Staff Association (ASA) at Eastern Polytechnic, Mr. Joe Diawo, started off by disclosing the cordiality that exists between ASA and the Administration of Eastern Polytechnic, noting the Administration's support to members who have had the desire for further studies. He expressed his gratitude to the Ministry for the many strides made to transform their Institution, but however noted key areas in which they would need support, ranging from the transformation of Eastern Polytechnic into a University, promotion of Lecturers, retirees meeting their ex-gratia on time, staff bus provision, to age not being a deterrent to the award of scholarships.

The Students' Union President of Eastern Polytechnic, Mr. Abdul Rahman Jalloh, thanked the Ministry for answering to their call. According to him, students are challenged with lack of a student bus, an outdoor sitting facility for students, and a photocopy centre, requesting the government to consider such needs.

In his keynote address, the Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie, noted Government's readiness to transform Eastern Polytechnic into Eastern Technical University, with the repeal of the University Act of 2005 and an enactment of the University Act of 2021. He mentioned the need to have at least a University in every region of Sierra Leone, adding that the Eastern Region is the only without one. According to Prof. Wurie, the legal framework needs to be gotten right for the University to exist. "The intended timeline is for the first set of students to enroll into the Eastern Technical University in October 2021," he envisaged.

MTHE Participates in Commissioning Simulation Laboratories in Bo and Kenema



The Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie, on 10th June, 2021 joined the Minister of Health and Sanitation, Dr. Austin Demby, and the United States Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Sierra Leone, Mr. David Reimer, to commission Simulation Laboratories at the School of Midwifery in Bo and Eastern Polytechnic, Kenema Nursing School.

The Simulation Laboratories, which were refurbished and equipped by ICAP at Columbia University with

funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), focuses on enhancing clinical education of medical students by practicing skills on manikins without involving real patients.

In his statement, Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie, thanked ICAP and HRSA for equipping and funding the Simulation Laboratories, extending his appreciation to the health workforce for their efforts at reducing maternal and child mortality in the country. He encouraged the midwives to continuously practice with the use of simulation mechanisms in a bid to enhance competence in health service delivery.

The Minister of Health and Sanitation, Dr. Austin Demby, commended the health workforce for having assiduously worked towards reducing maternal and child mortality rate in the country, encouraging them to continue in that drive. He mentioned that one of the main ingredients in addressing maternal and child mortality is by having well-trained and empowered midwives, which is what the commissioning ceremony seeks to manifest. "You're not only helping to professionally deliver a healthy baby, but you are also doing a duty to support our country's human capital," he said.

According to the United States Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Sierra Leone, Mr. David Reimer, the importance of the events both in Bo and Kenema cannot be overstated. He assured members of the United States' commitment to supporting Sierra Leone in building an improved health sector, urging the midwives to combine theory with practice through simulation exercise to improve their level of competence.

In her presentation on the role of clinical simulation lab in strengthening midwifery education, Dr. Susan Michaels-Strasser of ICAP at Columbia University noted the importance of competency-based training, which is a result-driven approach to teaching and learning, providing midwives with the requisite understanding of how to be a safe practitioner. She mentioned the overall goal of bridging the theory-practice divide, recognizing that efforts should be continuously attached to people's wellbeing.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Officer, Mr. George Tidwell, stated his organization's ongoing collaboration with ICAP, and the fruitful gains that has earned them, especially in the development of Sierra Leone's health sector. He thanked the country's health workforce for a tremendous work done. "What you have delivered for your country is truly remarkable and inspirational," he noted.

Parliament Enacts Universities Act, 2021



On 8th July, 2021, the Parliament of Sierra Leone debated and enacted the Universities Act, 2021.

This new Act, having repealed and replaced the Universities Act, 2005, has made provision for the establishment of Milton Margai Technical University, Eastern Technical University and Kono University of Science and Technology, and for the continuation of University of Sierra Leone and Njala University. The Act also makes provision for the Ernest Bai Koroma University of Science and Technology. Accordingly, the President ceases to be a Chancellor

of all public universities, which allows the universities to have their own Chancellors appointed by the President.

"This is indeed a historic day, a day that reflects that this country has people of integrity. You have demonstrated quite clearly that irrespective of which side of the isle you happen to find yourself, you will uphold a national course... All what we have done has been for the benefit of the young in this country; for them to know that we are prepared to provide some form of higher education for every student, irrespective of where they find themselves after completion of secondary school. We have also considered parity of esteem such that students can progress from one layer to the other..." said the Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie after the enactment of the Universities Act, 2021 in the Well of Parliament.

MTHE Engages UNICEF, Discuss Areas of Collaboration



The Ministry of Technical and Higher Education (MTHE) met with United Nations Children's Education Fund (UNICEF) on 7th June, 2021 to discuss key areas of collaboration. The meeting was held at the Ministry's Conference Room, New England Ville in Freetown.

In his statement, the Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie, registered his sincere

appreciation to UNICEF for answering to their call. He mentioned the importance of reviewing the modes of Teacher Training to make it more participatory between the teacher and student, adding that much attention is needed in the area of enhancing science education. He lamented over the inadequate provision for "Higher Education" in the Education Sector Analysis presented to the Ministry, stressing the need to address such gap.

UNICEF's Education Specialist, Celeste Staley, mentioned their commitment as an institution to supporting the Ministry vis-a-vis Teacher Training Institutions, and Technical, Vocational and Education Training (TVET). She noted UNICEF's readiness to support its Rapid Analysis, by addressing some of the identified gaps so as to feed into the Sector Plan. She further mentioned strides to strengthen all institutions working within the Education Sector, as well as identify adolescents that have dropped out of school with a view to looking for the kinds of technical and vocational opportunities available for them.

MTHE meets with EU to enhance Sierra Leone's education sector

Enhancing an improved technical and higher education in every country requires the full commitment of its academic authorities and their collaborative skills. As a Ministry responsible to man the affairs of tertiary education in the country, MTHE has, since its establishment, upheld a high sense of collaboration and consultations in the implementation of its mandate.



On 2nd March, 2021, members of the Support to Education Sector in Sierra Leone (SESSiL), a European Union funded project, had a meeting with the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education at New England Ville, Freetown in a bid to discuss ways of refining technical and higher education sector in the country.

In his opening statement, the Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie, thanked members for being present and making education a priority. He noted that the government recognizes that a larger number of people require

skills which are outside the formal sector, citing the need to put considerable attention to the non-formal sector in a bid to enhance national growth. He recommended the standardization of entry requirements to the various options of certificates, diplomas, and degrees in the formal sector. Prof. Wurie lamented about the problems associated with lack of job placements for students after their graduation, noting his quest to work with the Ministry of Youth Affairs with a view to having a roadmap that will eventually address the problems of graduate unemployment. He additionally expressed his dissatisfaction over the increase in number of students that are vying for WASSCE every year, adding that the pressure would consequently be on the higher education sector. He mentioned the need to give premium to distance education as a way of addressing the populous nature of the country's higher learning institutions.

The Team Leader of the Support to the Education Sector in Sierra Leone (SESSiL), Mr. Batilloi Warritay, intimated members that SESSiL was a program set up in 2016 to cover a five year period of an agreement to finance the linkage between the European Union and the Government of Sierra Leone by relevantly upgrading and infusing some level of support within the education sector. He mentioned that the SESSiL program encompasses four key areas which are to improve education systems management, to improve primary school teaching and learning, to enhance equal opportunity for boys and girls within the secondary school system, and to improve management of technical and vocational education. Based on the newness of Ministry of Technical and Higher Education, there are a number of areas that have allowed SESSiL to target and reshape certain aspects of the program estimate. Mr. Warritay mentioned the significant support that European Union has given in developing an E-learning digital system in the information management of all universities across the country, an initiative that was recently validated in Kenema. He said that more recently, they have been involved in discussions around licensure examinations.

The Imprest Administrator of SESSiL, Madam Mancay R. Smith, cited that there role is to oversee all operations financed by the European Union and to ensure that the activities speak to the overall objectives during the program. She urged the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education to properly position itself and take advantage of programs that will be supported by the European Union.

MTHE receives harmonized curriculum from MOSW

The Ministries of Technical and Higher Education, and Social Welfare view the development of a social work curriculum as an essential academic drive in preparing students with the requisite theoretical and practical skills to fit into present day social working environment.



In a meeting held on 26th February 2021 at their Office in New England Ville, the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education formerly received a harmonized social work curriculum from the Ministry of Social Welfare.

The Acting Professional Head of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Madam Mariatu Bangura, intimated members about the meeting being a follow-up action on the development of a social work curriculum to be integrated into the universities. She mentioned that a field-based approach was used to develop the curriculum, adding that a consultant was hired and a technical working group was constituted to ensure a comprehensive work on the curriculum. She said that members of the Technical Working

Group comprized social work practitioners with local and international experience, university lecturers, a representative from the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education and Tertiary Education Commission, citing that a curriculum for Certificate and Diploma in Social Work, Bachelor of Science in Social Work and the Field-based Manual have been developed by the team.

A Representative from UNICEF, Mr. David Lamin, said that there has been a lot of emerging social issues as a result of the eleven years civil war, Ebola pandemic and the like. He said that over the years university students are only taught the theories of Social Work, rendering them unable to explore the practical, and it was in an attempt to fill such gap that UNICEF decided to support the Ministry of Social Welfare to harmonize and review the Social Work Curriculum. He informed members that copies of the harmonized curriculum have been shared to the various universities and polytechnics to be presented to the Senate/ Council for approval. He said that the Tertiary Education Commission is privy to the harmonized curriculum, citing plans to conduct in-service training for lecturers on the use of the curriculum. He however lamented on the limited number of lecturers in the Social Work Departments across the country.

The Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Prof Alpha Tejan Wurie, thanked the Minister of Social Welfare for updating him on such a progressive step made in the aspect of social work. He stressed the importance of social work, especially at this time when Sierra Leone is at its crossroads. He emphasized what he had previously said in a meeting with Vice Chancellors with regards the need to explore the possibility of harmonizing entry requirement as well as establishing a centralized agency to admit students into university. He further stated that the field-based approach should be prioritized among others. He expressed his satisfaction and commended the Ministry of Social Welfare for complementing the work of the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education.

The Minister of Social Welfare, Baidu Dassama Kamara, formerly presented copies of the harmonized social work curriculum to the Minister.

MTHE engages Vice Chancellors and Principals on ways of transforming Sierra Leone's tertiary education sector



As a way of transforming Sierra Leone's tertiary education sector, the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education at their Office on 25th February 2021 held a meeting with Principals and Vice Chancellors.

Speaking to the Principals and Vice Chancellors, the Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie, started off by

welcoming the Vice Chancellors and Principals, stressing the importance of such a meeting especially at a time when the tertiary education sector needs a positive change. He mentioned the need for a centralized university or college admission services that will actually work out which student goes where and which of the courses is done in each of the institutions.

He further mentioned the need for universities to revisit their entry requirements, noting that the higher learning institutions should not limit college entry requirements just to five credits in WASSCE. He said that the country needs to have gradations of tertiary education entities because the provision of the universities is for government to provide learning services to people at different levels, recommending that undergraduate certificate courses be done in upcoming universities or polytechnics rather than in old ones like Fourah Bay College.

Prof. Wurie expressed his desire for the colleges that are already registered to be incorporated into the University Act and urged the university authority to form a committee that will start the higher education analysis and work along with the Teaching Service Commission.

MTHE joins in the signing ceremony of an MOU between the Government of Sierra Leone and People's Republic of Japan

The People's Republic of Japan, together with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), on 23rd March, 2021 at the State House of Sierra Leone, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Sierra Leone to promote youth employment through automotive maintenance skills training.



The signing ceremony was graced with the attendance of a cross-section of the Management of Ministry of Technical and Higher Education.

In her opening statement, the Director of Research, Planning and Development in the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education, Ms. Sia Fasuluku, started off by thanking the Government of Sierra Leone, especially President Julius Maada Bio, for his fruitful international trips of which the signing of the MOU is one of the outcomes. She noted that the

automotive maintenance skills-training is geared towards human capital development, specifically the empowerment of youths to help them refrain from being security threats to society. She lamented about the lack of certified technicians and auto-mechanics for vehicular repairing and maintenance, adding that the project is in a bid to close such gap.

UNIDO's Country Representative in Sierra Leone, Ms. Mariatu Abionor Swaray, expressed her delight for being part of the signing ceremony of a project which will help address the skills gap in Sierra Leone.

She said that the drive towards a vibrant economy and economic independence of the country's youthful population have been driven by industrial skills development through the Technical, Vocational and Education Training (TVET). TVET, she noted, is at the heart of any country's structural transformation, and it serves as a catalyst for enhanced employment opportunities, higher productivity, learning and innovation and export expansion for technology spillovers. She mentioned that the project will leverage the opportunity to advance women empowerment in a traditionally men-dominated automotive sector, support the development of a system to train youths not just in technical skills but also as entrepreneurs, and also procure and install necessary facilities and modern training equipment at the institutes. She further stated that a curriculum will be developed to absorb the project benefits at the end of the process.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Sierra Leone, Mr. Himeno Tsutomu, announced Japan's continued commitment to the diplomatic relationship between their country and the Republic of Sierra Leone.

He noted his pleasure to have been partnering with UNIDO in most of their projects, including the automotive maintenance skills training project which is set to strengthen the capacity of youths with a view to developing Sierra Leone's human capital.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation, Mr. Kabineh Mr. Kallon, mentioned his awareness of the opportunities that the automotive maintenance skills training will bring to the people of Sierra Leone, especially the youths. He expressed hope that the intervention will increase personnel who will eventually play a concrete role in strengthening the foundation of economic recovery. He assured members of his Ministry's fullest support in the implementation of the project.

Making his keynote statement, Chief Minister, Prof. David Francis, intimated members that the signing ceremony is a visible outcome of the international travels and engagements of H.E. President Julius Maada Bio. He said that the whole plan started when a delegation from Sierra Leone attended the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) summit in 2019, where he met with the Government of Japan including the Prime Minister and representatives from the Toyota Multi-Corporation, and further conveyed messages from the meetings to the Japanese Ambassador through the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education to support Sierra Leone in building the capacity for vehicle and agriculture maintenance center in the country. He mentioned with delight that the President's visit to Japan has produced the construction of 4 ultra-modern vehicle maintenance centers in Freetown, Bo, Kenema, and Tonkolili, adding that the project is worth 3.8 million dollar, which will benefit over 10, 000 young men and women within five years.

Minister of Technical and Higher Education and other state and foreign officials welcome Sierra Leonean graduates from universities of the People's Republic of China

On 24th February 2021, the Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie, 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, and 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 benefits 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 dire 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 noted 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 support 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.

Ministry of Technical and Higher Education formerly receives Final Reports on Science Curriculum and Teacher Licensure Examination

In a meeting held on 30th March, 2021, at the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education's Conference Room, the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Gilbert Cooper, officially received Final Project Reports and all relevant documents pertaining to the Science Curriculum Project and the Teacher Licensure Examination.

The presentations and handing over of the documents came as a result of robust commitment of both National and International Consultants to the development of the project.



Ministry of Technical and Higher Education formerly receives Final Reports on Science Curriculum and Teacher Licensure Examination (Con)

With a clear focus of enhancing Sierra Leone's teaching profession, these two projects started after the Ministry's contact with PROMAN in February 2020 to provide technical assistance in the process of Teacher Licensure Examination and in the development of a Science Curriculum.

In his opening statement, the Chief Technical and Higher Education Officer, Mr. Josephus Brima, expressed his gratitude to PROMAN and the National and International Consultants for their relentless commitment to the enhancement of the work.

He assured all of MTHE's complete dedication to working with all relevant stakeholders in driving quality into the level of the country's teaching profession. "The quality of teachers determines the level at which we develop; no nation develops above the quality of its teachers," he noted.

Coordination and Liaison Team Leader of PROMAN, Mr. Batilloi Warritay, mentioned several essential outcomes that were anticipated at the inception of the project, key among which were the development and adaptation of Teacher Licensure Examination which will reflect course content for the new teachers, and the development of a work that would produce an operational version of a Teacher Quality Examination to ensure test security and validity. He expressed his satisfaction that through close collaboration, the outcomes have not only been attained but actually surpassed. He envisaged the presentation to provide the platform for more intense discussions on how each of the key stakeholders will navigate the implementation of their respective mandates. "...this is just the beginning of a major new journey of improving and maintaining professional standards not only in the competencies of the average teacher, but in licensing and testing of same," he envisioned. One concern, he however noted, is the absence of a Referential Framework in the educational system, urging the Tertiary Education Commission to work towards its implementation.

In his keynote statement, the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Gilbert Cooper, thanked key players for the development of these documents and the identification of gaps where professional teaching is concerned. He confessed his conviction that the teaching profession in the country will surely be enhanced, registering his appreciation over the collaborative spirit exhibited by the key stakeholders in the project (Teaching Service Commission, Tertiary Education Commission, National Council for Technical Vocational and other Academic Awards, Ministry of Technical and Higher Education, and Teacher Training Institutions).

Presentations and handing over of the Report on Science Curriculum as well as the Teacher Licensure Examination were done by the National Consultant for Science Curriculum, Dr. Samba Moriba, and the International Consultant for the Teacher Licensure Project, Prof. Steve Nwokeocha respectively.

MTHE bids farewell to Malaysian scholarship awardee

The Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie, at his Ministry's Conference Room on 19th April 2021, officially presented traveling tickets and passport to Ellie Joseph Cooper in pursuit of a BSc. Hons. in Business Administration at the Albukhary International University in Malaysia.



This formal presentation was preceded by series of applications received by the Ministry, of which five applicants were fairly nominated, three for BSc. Hons. in Business Administration and two for a degree in Elementary Education. Ellie Joseph Cooper ended up being successfully selected by Albukhary International University.

According to Prof. Wurie, Joseph Cooper is going to Malaysia to serve as an Ambassador for Sierra Leone, and therefore, he encouraged him to make the country proud. The Minister admonished the candidate to be cognizant of the of diversified cultural backgrounds of other international students who will as well be pursuing academic programmes in the country, urging him to be in a position to adapt in such situations.

Ellie Joseph Cooper thanked the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education for providing him with such a life-changing platform, noting his full commitment to the course and his dedication to coming back as a Business Administrator to contribute to national growth.

PIH collaborates with MTHE & MoHS to operationalize the Maternal Centre of Excellence in Kono

With a clear vision of reducing maternal and child mortality in Kono District and Sierra Leone in general, Partners in Health (PIH) has, in collaboration with the Ministries of Technical & Higher Education (MTHE) and Health & Sanitation (MoHS) on 23rd April, 2021, turned the sod for the construction and operationalization of a Maternal Centre of Excellence (MCoE) in Kono District.



The event, which attracted a host of Government Officials, Members of Parliament, International and Local Stakeholders, was in a bid to enhance the expansion of Koidu Government Hospital with a state-of-the-art 166 bed women and children's teaching hospital.

The project was jointly funded by Partners in Health (PIH) and Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) with an investment of \$18.2 million and \$6.8 million respectively.

Representing the Minister of Technical and Higher Education, the Chief Technical and Higher Education Officer in the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education, Dr. Josephus Brimah, expressed his heartfelt delight for such a laudable venture that will not only impact on the lives of the people of Kono but also of the people of Sierra Leone health-wise.

He noted that MTHE has had series of discussions regarding the need to have this proposed institution of excellence be recognised as a provider of requisite training in the medical profession, adding the Ministry's readiness to work with other state institutions in achieving Sustainable Development Goals SDGs 3 and 4 which deal with "good health & well-being and quality education" respectively.

According to Dr. Brimah, MTHE intends to include and recognise the proposed Centre of Excellence in the newly drafted University Bill 2021, with an expectation that the proposed institution will, in future, stand tall in the educational pantheon of Sierra Leone.

Management of Ministry of Technical and Higher Education

Political Wing



Prof. Alpha Tejan Wurie
Minister



Mr. Sarjoh Aziz-Kamara
Deputy Minister

Administrative Wing



Mr. Gilbert H. Cooper
Senior Permanent Secretary



Mr. Teslim Othman
Deputy Secretary



Mrs. Aminata Jimmy
Deputy Secretary

Management of Ministry of Technical and Higher Education (Cont.)

Professional Wing



Dr. Josephus Jeremiah Brimah
Chief Technical and Higher Education Officer



Mrs. Musu M. Gorvie
Deputy Chief Technical and Higher Education Officer



Mrs. Fatmata Kaiwa
Director, Science Education



Madam Sia Fasuluku
Director, Research, Planning and Development



Dr. Victor Massaquoi
Director, Technical, Vocational, Education,
and Training (TVET)



Mrs. Christiana S. Samu
Director, Monitoring and Evaluation



Mr. Victor A. Sesay
Director, Technology and Innovation

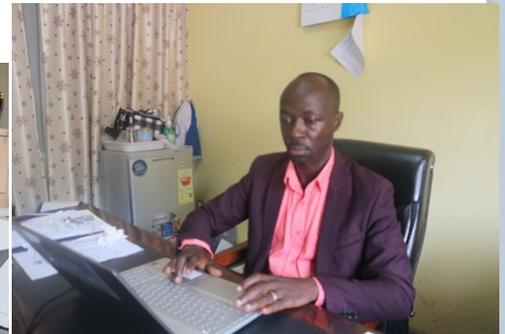
Management of Ministry of Technical and Higher Education (Cont.)
Deputy Directors and other Heads of Units



Mrs. Rebecca M. Saffa
Deputy Director, Human Resource



Mr. Abdul A. B. Senesie
Deputy Director, TVET



Mr. Idrissa Sannoh
Student Secretary



Mr. Michael Momoh Kargbo
Principal Accountant



Mr. Jacob Williams
Senior Internal Auditor



Mr. Albert Sesay
Senior Procurement Officer



Mr. Erasmus E. Kaitell
Senior Stores and Inventory Officer



Mr. Sahr Sewa
Information Officer



Mr. Thomas Ngaima
Senior Budget Officer