



NJALA UNIVERSITY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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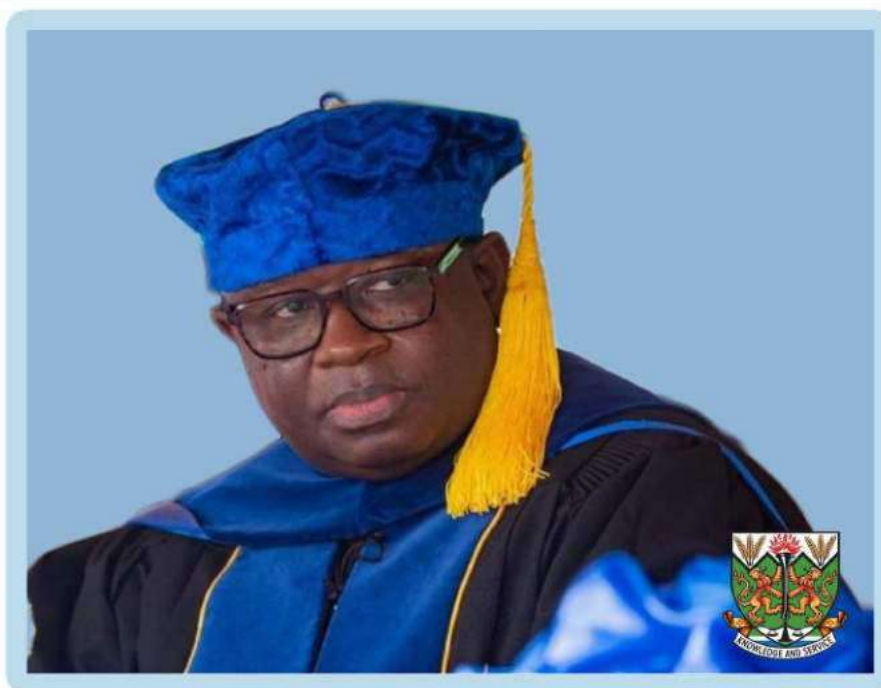
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Njala University confers Honorary Doctor of Letters Degree on President Bio

On Friday, March 17, 2023, at the Forecourt of the University Guesthouse, Njala Campus, Njala University conferred an Honorary Doctor of Letters Degree on His Excellency Dr Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, for his outstanding achievements in public service and leadership, as well as for re-directing the country to a "renewed and revitalized sense of purpose."

Professor Sahr Moses Gevao, Chancellor of Njala University, stated that the event honouring the President was held in compliance with Sections 4(b) and 2(1), Subsection 3 of the University's Act 2021.



His Excellency the President Brigadier Retd. Dr. Julius Maada Bio
Visitor to Njala University and Awardee of the Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa)

The citation for the Honoris Causa Degree of Doctor of Letters (D.Litt) reads:

Under powers conferred by the Universities Act and Njala University ordinances, Njala University has determined that His Excellency, Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, be awarded the degree of Doctor of Letters, Litterarum Doctor, (Honoris Causa) of this university.

The University notes Your Excellency's outstanding record of public service as a brave soldier; a daring patriot who initiated peace and a pluralist democracy after a generation of repressive autocratic rule; as a visionary and transformational leader over the last five years; and, as a key driver of irreversible, inclusive, and sustainable progress in Sierra Leone.

Your leadership at the continental level is evident in your very successful tenure thus far of the chairmanship of the Africa Peer Review Forum and the Committee of Ten for the Reform of the United Nations. Sierra Leone's unanimous endorsement for a seat on the United Nations Security Council in the non-permanent category after over half a century and your co-chairing of global United Nations steering groups and summits on SDG and education.

But it is your visionary reforms in the educational sector that will have far-reaching impacts on sustainable and inclusive development. You have said the future of education will define the future and fortunes of this country and that education is good for personal development, good for community development, and good for inclusive and sustainable national development.

Dr. Samuel Senesie, the University's Public Orator, stated that President Julius Maada Bio had outstandingly demonstrated through his public service and current leadership that "the best days of Sierra Leone, as a nation, are yet to come," and that it was a source of pride for Njala University to confer the Degree of Letters on the president of the Republic of Sierra Leone for particularly reviving the belief that "inclusive and sustainable national development can be accomplished through education."

President Julius Maada Bio commended the University administration for taking such care in recognising him. Among other things, the president expressed his satisfaction at being honoured by an institution that had made major contributions to Sierra Leone's development. The president went on to say:

This great nation has been very kind to me. It has given me opportunities to lead. It has inspired me to think critically about the many challenges it perpetually throws at all of us. With the right mindset, the right leadership, and the right policies, I have been thrilled by the transformation of the education sector over the last five years.

His Excellency also recalled how, as a young soldier in his twenties, he made the difficult decision to enlist the help of sub-regional leaders in the hunt for the Revolutionary United Front leader, Corporal Foday Sankoh, and how he then initiated the peace process, held democratic elections, voluntarily retired from the military, transferred power to a civilian government, and left the country to be educated and prepared for leadership. "Those who facetiously argue that I had nothing to do with the birth of democracy in Sierra Leone should ask themselves whether Sierra Leone has ever looked back after five election cycles," he said.



The President also noted that in order to bring in constructive change and shift the fortunes of the nation, leaders should forego personal gratification and make daring decisions by weighing costs and long-term implications. He explained that the citation for him referred to the many accomplishments of the nation in the field of education and that what he had done for education was simply the realisation of the dreams of "a bare-footed five-year-old orphan in Tihun - a boy, encouraged by his illiterate mother, Yei Amie, to explore and participate in the life-changing, nation-changing experience of education."



President Julius Maada Bio presents Buses to Njala University's Academic Staff Association

On April 3, 2023, His Excellency Dr. Julius Maada Bio delivered the keys to three minibuses to the President of the Njala University Academic Staff Association (ASA-NU).

President Bio informed ASA Executive that the gift was the result of discussions he had with their leadership following his award of an honorary Doctorate Degree.

"I promised you this presentation a few weeks ago, and this is it," he added, emphasising that the three vehicles would be delivered to Njala Campus, Bo Campus and the Academic Staff Association.



In response, President Dr. Brima Gegbe said he was delighted to accept the buses on behalf of the University and thanked the President for that act of generosity and assured to pass on his goodwill gesture to his colleagues. "This is a demonstration of the 'Tok N Do' policy," he concluded.

At the ASA Plenary Session on Thursday 13 April 2023, President Brima Gegbe thanked President Dr. Julius Maada Bio for honouring ASA's "Request Letter for Logistical Assistance", of which transportation was critical, especially for staff commuting between the University campuses and disadvantaged rural locations.

Transportation issues for staff travelling to and from University campuses to provide quality educational services and support the government's flagship human capital development (education) programme were addressed in follow-up meetings and discussions with H.E., Dr Julius Maada Bio on March 17, 2023, at the Njala Campus after receiving an Honorary Doctorate Degree at the 2023 Njala University Postgraduate Congregation.

"The buses are a fulfilment of the promise H. E., Retd. Brigadier, Dr Julius Maada Bio made during the follow-up meeting and discussions, and he has delivered within three weeks of his promise, which is a clear manifestation of a "Tok and Do Leadership," said the ASA President.

Several speakers praised H.E, Retd. Brigadier Dr. Julius Maada Bio for listening and responding to the requests of ASA-NU.

Each representative of the Campus Working Committees thanked President Bio, and requested the indulgence of colleagues, including administrative staff, to express gratitude and appreciation to H. E., Dr Julius Maada Bio through the ballot box on June 24, 2023.

ASA members agreed to hand over the buses to the Campus Working Committee (CWC) Chairmen of Njala and Bo campuses.



Njala University confers Honorary Doctor of Science Degree on Professor Alpha Tejan Wurie



Sierra Leone's Minister of Technical and Higher Education, Professor Alpha Tejan Wurie, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) Degree by Njala University Court on Thursday, 4th May 2023, in recognition of "his outstanding work across individual sciences and higher education in Sierra Leone."

The Chairman of the University Court and Chancellor of Njala University, Professor Sahr Moses Gavao, opened the meeting and stated its purpose: "In accordance with the Universities Act 2021, Section 4(b), a University shall have the power to award honorary degrees to and confer other distinctions on persons approved by the University as having rendered distinguished services in the advancement of any branch of learning or who have otherwise rendered themselves worthy of such degrees." The Chancellor stated that "Section 12(1) states that a University Court shall be responsible to determine the number and type of honorary degrees to be awarded in each session, and the names of the recipients."

Professor Wurie was praised in the citation as one of Sierra Leone's most distinguished Chemists and an accomplished politician whose work crosses the boundaries of individual sciences and has diverse and far-reaching practical applications.



“Our Honorary Degree awardee was appointed by the former President of the Republic Sierra Leone, Ahmed Tejan Kabba as Minister of Education in 1996 to 1998, Minister of Education Youth and Sport in 1998 to 2002, and Minister of Education Science and Technology in 2002 to 2007. During his tenure, he initiated major transformation in the education sector including among others the promulgation of the following Acts: Polytechnics Act of 2001, the National Council for Technical and Vocational and other Academic Awards Act of 2001, the Tertiary Education Commission Act of 2001, the Education Act of 2004. Professor Alpha Wurie’s professional and academic career has always been closely associated with higher education the reason why he is so familiar with the education landscape of Sierra Leone and even beyond,” the citation reads.



Professor Alpha Tejan Wurie
Minister of Technical and Higher Education

As the Proprietor of Ramsy Medical Laboratory, Professor Wurie was said to have made significant contributions to the establishment and strengthening of laboratory services and systems, as well as the establishment of an analytical laboratory to identify safe chemical levels and microbial contents in water, soil, food, and liquids. As a result of his multiple publications in international peer-reviewed journals, he was elevated to the status of Associate Professor of Chemistry at the University of Sierra Leone in 2012.

Minister Wurie praised the University for the honour in his acceptance address, adding, I am an Alumnus of Fourah Bay College, but from this day on, Njala becomes my family. Our journey began many years ago. In 2001, we established the NCTVA and the Tertiary Education Commission, laying the groundwork for tertiary education. The University of Sierra Leone was divided into Njala University and USL in 2005. However, diverse areas of expertise would be advantageous, as His Excellency the President has directed me that colleges should have specialisations in which they excel and are acknowledged as experts.”

Professor Wurie went on to say that His Excellency had directed the establishment of public universities in all regions of Sierra Leone and expressed his delight that the Administration had accomplished what was stated in the 2021 Universities Act for Bonthe Technical Training College to become a Campus rather than an affiliate of Njala. He noted the University’s needs for ICT, infrastructure, water, transportation and educational materials and pledged the Sierra Leone government’s support to address these concerns.

Professor Bashiru Mohamed Koroma, Vice-Chancellor & Principal, expressed his joy and gratitude to the Minister for receiving this honour. He commended his commitment to higher education and his understanding of its importance to the country’s long-term competitiveness.

The VC&P applauded the minister’s pledge to open a medical school at Njala University by October 2023. He informed that a workshop would be organised to finalise the medical school curriculum and that WAHO, COMAHS, and other credible medical institutions would be serving as reference sources for operational documents. According to the VC&P, a team of medical experts and regulatory bodies was selected to lead the process and prepare working documents for the upcoming workshop. He called on the minister to intervene quickly, also highlighting some of the current problems facing the University.

Attendees included the Wurie family, as well as the Deans of School, Heads of Department, and other administrative and academic staff.

Njala University: In Retrospect, Introspect & Prospect

Professor Bashiru Mohamed Koroma, Vice-Chancellor & Principal of Njala University, has on Friday, 17th March 2023, celebrated the long journey of the University during a congregation to confer an honorary doctorate on His Excellency Brigadier (Retd.) Julius Maada Bio.

VC&P noted that the University was established in 1910 as the Njala Agricultural Experimental Station to study tropical crops, soils, poultry and pig production, and plant and animal diseases and pests. After 30 years of fruitful operation, the Agricultural Experimental Station was promoted to Njala Training College in 1939. According to him, in 1964 the Training College was promoted to Njala University College, and in 1972 the University College became a constituent college of the University of Sierra Leone. According to VC&P, the University College became independent in 2005, 33 years after, and was named “Njala University”.



"At every stage of Njala University's transformation, its mission has always been to serve, educate and be a centre of excellence for the people of Sierra Leone," said the Vice Chancellor & Principal.

Professor Bashiru Mohamed Koroma informed His Excellency that the University had two campuses and that a third campus, the Bonthe Campus, would soon be established. He impugned that the setting up of the School of Basic Sciences and Basic Education for the academic year 2022/2023 was a step to implement the University's restructuring plan.

He stressed that the University's constant problem had been to meet staff and student needs for on-campus water and energy. He added that the University is spending an average of eight hundred thousand New Leones (NLe. 800,000) every month to generate water and electricity on its Campuses.

He called on the 'Talk and Do' government, the alumni association and friends of Njala University to act quickly. As a short-term remedy, Professor Bashiru Koroma urged the government to provide additional localised solar power systems, especially for student hostels, classrooms, laboratories and libraries.

The Professor praised the First Lady's "Hands Off Our Girls" project, which had resulted in radical inclusion, leading to an increase in the percentage of female students completing secondary education and enrolling in STEAM programmes at various universities in Sierra Leone, describing the First Lady as the 'Lioness who milks the Lion' in order to keep it strong as her husband, the President, had worked hard to improve Sierra Leone.

VC&P expressed confidence in the establishment of the School of Medical Sciences and announced that the future KOWAMA Campus in October 2023 "will have three schools: Medicine, Nursing and Public Health." He praised the government's continued support to the University, especially NASSIT's donation of a 500KVA generator to Bo Campus and another generator to Njala Campus, both led by H.E. Brigadier (Retd.) Dr. Julius Maada Bio.

He thanked the government for donating 150 kilowatts of solar power to Njala University Hospital and University Secretariat with the support of the Ministry of Energy, as well as various other donations.

Njala University establishes a new Campus in Bonthe District

Professor Sahr Moses Gevao, Chancellor of Njala University, inaugurated the Njala University Bonthe Campus on Saturday, April 15, 2023.

The ceremony, held on the ground of the former Bonthe Technical Training College, Monument Lane, Sherbro Island, Bonthe, was attended by Njala University administrative and academic staff, the Deputy Minister of Technical and Higher Education, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, the former Mayor of Bonthe Municipality, the Bonthe District Officer, traditional leaders, students, and residents of Bonthe.

The Chancellor remarked in his welcome address that "Njala University is a vibrant, progressive institution that is always looking for opportunities for growth and sustainability."

Professor Gevao believed that establishing a third campus in Bonthe would unlock economic potential, create untapped industries, and allow Njala University to establish itself on the international stage as a recognised education and research provider, particularly in the global maritime world and the sustainable tourism industry. He explained that it was part of the University's restructuring strategy aimed at positioning it as a well-established educational and research institution. He went on to say that the University "is dedicated to achieving its objectives" and needed the support of stakeholders to "make this ambitious project a reality."

Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Bashiru Mohamed Koroma stated in his inaugural speech that the University intended to establish two Schools and Institutes, including the Schools of Maritime Studies, Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality Management, the Institute of Technical Entrepreneurship and Vocational Studies, and the Institute of Teacher Education.



Mr. Sarjoh Aziz-Kamara
Deputy Minister of Technical and Higher Education

The School of Maritime Studies, according to Professor Bashiru Koroma, would have three departments: Marine Engineering and Navigation, Maritime Management and Logistics, and Marine Sciences and Coastal Agriculture. The Departments of Tourism and Travel Management, Hospitality Management and Catering Science, and Cultural Heritage Studies would also be headquartered under the School of Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality Management.

"Recognised as a pioneer of initiatives that support sustainable economic growth, the University is now embarking on an exciting Campus establishment in Sherbro Island that stands to generate enormous benefits at local and national levels," Professor Koroma stated.

The School of Maritime Studies, according to VC&P, would address substantial human capacity shortfalls in Sierra Leone's blue economy industries. "This economic concept," he continued, "promotes the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, food security, job creation, energy generation, water transportation, and marine environment protection for future generations."

He called on governments, partners and funders to help the new campus achieve its goals.

Mr. Sarjoh Aziz-Kamara, on behalf of the Minister of Technical and Higher Education, said he was frustrated by the apparent neglect of longstanding historical injustices against Bonthe Island, noting that this was being addressed due to President Bio's desire for quality education.

The Deputy Minister explained that the transition was due to the government's huge investment in education and that it was fortunate that it took Bonthe College just 34 years to become a constituent campus of Njala University. He went on to say that His Excellency's focus on human capital development and investment of 22% in education had resulted in more people attending school, passing public exams, and increasing enrollment in public universities.

He emphasised that the transformation and expansion of Njala University "is of vital importance given the country's growing population, especially the growing number of young people." He added that Njala's expansion to the Bonthe Campus would bring Njala to about 24% of the population of the Southern Province, stressing that the expansion was planned and targeted by President Bio's government.

Minister Sarjoh Aziz-Kamara further added that the expansion "is in line with MTHE's goals" of focusing on technical and vocational education in 16 districts with the aim of enhancing the autonomy and global competitiveness of intermediaries. He praised the administration for considering vital programmes and courses for the new campus.

Deputy Speaker of Parliament Philip Segepoh Thomas reaffirmed his commitment to the new campus and called on locals, friends, sponsors and the government to help establish it.

Former Bonthe Municipality Mayor Layemin Joe Sandi pledged his entire support to the Campus, noting that they had hoped for this moment for a long time due to the route the college was set to follow due to its numerous obstacles.

The ceremony ended with the ribbon-cutting and the presentation of signage commemorating the formal opening of the Bonthe Campus of Njala University.



Professor Sahr Moses Gevao
Chancellor of Njala University



Ms. Pauline Floode
Bonthe Campus Coordinator



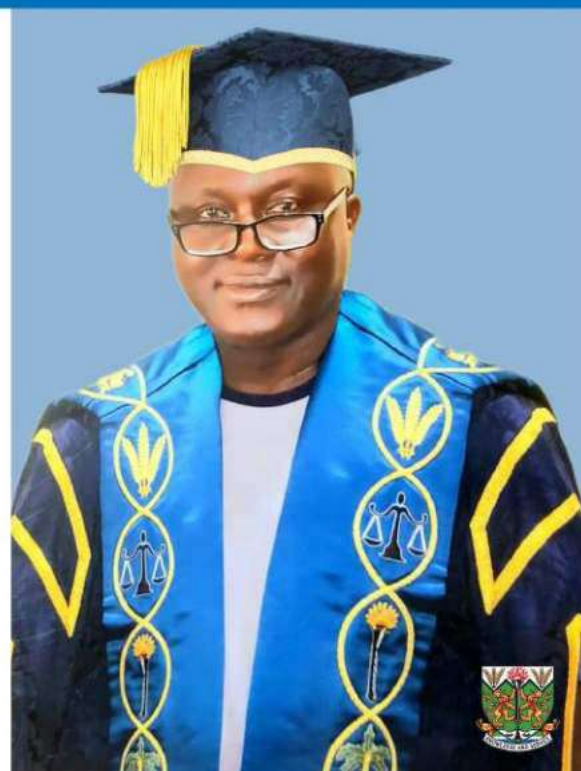
"I commit to steer this campus to a place where individuals will realise their full potential," VC&P assures

Professor Bashiru Mohamed Koroma, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Njala University, had pledged to steer Bonthe Campus to a place where aspirations "are realized, socio-economic development is promoted, individuals reach their full potential and contribute to society. We are committed to leading you where you have the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution."

These promises were made at the opening ceremony of Njala University's newest campus, the Bonthe Campus, held at the ground of the former Bonthe Technical Training College at Monument Lane, Sherbro Island, Bonthe.

The Vice-Chancellor & Principal unveiled plans for the University to build two schools and institutes, including Maritime Studies, Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality Management, as well as Institutes for Technical Entrepreneurship, Vocational Studies and Teacher Education.

According to Professor Bashiru Koroma, the School of Maritime Sciences consists of three departments: the Department of Maritime Science and Coastal Agriculture, the Department of Maritime Management and Logistics, and the Department of Marine Engineering and Navigation.



Professor Bashiru Mohamed Koroma
Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Njala University

He also announced that the Department of Tourism and Travel Management, the Department of Hospitality Management and Catering Science, and the Department of Cultural Heritage Studies would be established within the School of Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality Management.

"The University is now beginning to set up an exciting campus on Sherbro Island, which will bring significant benefits both locally and nationally," said Professor Koroma.

According to VC&P, the School of Maritime Studies would undoubtedly fill Sierra Leone's acute staffing shortage in the blue economy sector. He explained that this economic paradigm would support the sustainable use of marine resources for economic growth, food security, job creation, energy production, water transportation and marine environment protection for future generations.

Professor Koroma reiterated the University's willingness and determination to pursue and achieve its ultimate goals and aspirations, to which the Government of Sierra Leone (GOSL), the friends of the Bonthe Campus, and the stakeholders of Bonthe Sherbro Island, Bonthe district, as well as the Government's bilateral agencies, would collaborate to reach an agreement.

"We require student and staff accommodation, ICT infrastructure, water and land transportation to the Campus, as well as teaching and learning equipment, well-equipped laboratories, technical workshops, training simulators, and seafarer training facility, which we all need to work together to bring to fruition for a huge impact on future generations," Professor said.

INSLACS Week Celebration: *A Remarkable Show of Culture and Talent*



VC&P opens INSLACS celebration after addressing staff and students on four complementary values for growth and development



Students showcase culture and tradition through drama

The Institute of Languages and Cultural Studies (INSLACS) concluded a four-day celebration called INSLACS Week on Thursday 27 April 2023 at the Great Hall of the Towama Location, Bo Campus, with the theme, "A Unified Sierra Leone".

The festival included discussions, essay and poetry competitions, stand-up comedies, musical performances, theatre performances, and student cultural performances.

In his welcome statement, INSLACS Director Claude A. Dimoh justified the theme as a call to all Sierra Leoneans to be patriotic and to care for their country. He stressed that the dignity Sierra Leoneans had been enjoying was the result of the continued solidarity of the people.

"We at Njala University, especially INSLACS, aspire for national unity and cohesion. On this note, our groundbreaking event is a true reflection and exhibition of the cultural milieu of Sierra Leone and our bilateral relationships," Director Dimoh further stated. Mr. Dimoh further emphasised the importance of the event, stating that its purpose was to teach and promote the traditional heritage of Sierra Leone while assessing and developing students' creative and intellectual abilities.

Director Dimoh enlisted the supervising ministry, the government of Sierra Leone, the US Embassy, the British High Commission, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, well-meaning Sierra Leoneans, development partners and alumni to help in addressing the Institute's challenges in providing proficient training for staff, teaching and learning materials, and infrastructure such as classrooms, laboratories, and other facilities.

Professor Bashiru Mohamed Koroma, Vice Chancellor & Principal, spoke at the ceremony and assured INSLACS staff of the government's commitment to the goals and aspirations of providing quality education. He promised that his dynamic leadership would always be ready, motivated and capable of transforming the University in a timely, accurate and comprehensive manner.

The VC&P listed four complementary values that would enable the growth and development of Sierra Leone's education, including education essential to the growth and development of the nation, cultural diversity and relativism in education, and education as the key to national unity and transformation.

Professor Bashiru Koroma said that "an individual's knowledge and skills, not the number of years spent in the classroom, determine their growth, development and ability to alleviate poverty," praising INSLACS for demonstrating the potential of the human spirit. He urged everyone to change their call to action from "education for all" to "learning for all." The goal of cultural diversity, he said, "is to dispel negative stereotypes and personal prejudices about different groups, and to be able to recognise and respect ways that aren't necessarily our own." The VC&P assured that doing so would help to build bridges of trust, respect and understanding across cultures while connecting with others.



Njala University and its Host Communities: CRU's Role in Maintaining the Relationship

The Njala University Community Relations Unit reports directly to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Njala Campus and was established in early 2016 under the statutory mandate of the Vice-Chancellor & Principal.

This unit was established to represent Njala Campus in all community-related issues affecting both the communities and the University, build and maintain good relationships with key stakeholders in the communities, act as a liaison between the communities and the University, develop programmes to promote the University, raise social and community awareness, as well as develop and implement advocacy programmes. Since his appointment in 2019, the Community Relations Officer, Thomas Bamie-Charles, has been instrumental in increasing the profile of the University in the five host chiefdoms, as well as ensuring regular dialogue with the University and with local stakeholders who advise the University. It has made many notable achievements, such as making strides toward increasing the University's visibility in its five host chiefdoms and ensuring regular engagement between the University and community stakeholders. In fact, the five host chiefdoms' Paramount Chiefs—Kori, Kamajeh, Dase, Kowa, and Tikonko—attend significant University statutory meetings.

The University is to grant scholarships to landlord families through the CR units based on the paramount chiefs' recommendations. Young people from low-income families in the communities can now experience what Njala University can do for them through its community scholarships. Due to the University's long-standing relationship with the local communities, it has cultivated a significant portion of the land in the surrounding area. The unit also contributed to a campus survey and installed beacons at designated perimeters to deter intrusions.

With this level of commitment and collaboration, it is clear that Njala University and its host communities enjoy a mutually beneficial partnership.



Mr. Thomas Bamie-Charles
Community Relations Officer Njala University



Paramount Chief Borbor Gbappie
the 4th of Kori Chiefdom Moyamba District



OBITUARY



MRS. ELIZABETH EFE JOHNSON KARGBO

Short Biography

Mrs. Elizabeth Efe Johnson Kargbo was born on March 30, 1972, in Pujehun Town, Pujehun District, to Mr. Sanomi Johnson and Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson (Sisi). She completed her primary school education at the SLC Primary School, Gobaru in Pujehun, and then pursued her secondary education at the Gobaru Secondary School until 5th Form.

She then attended FinTech Vocational Institute, Kissy Road, and earned a certificate in Office Practice. After graduating, Mrs. Elizabeth Efe Kargbo worked as the Secretary for the Department of Biological Sciences at Njala University College, which is now Njala University. After receiving her degree, she worked in that capacity for more than four years before being elevated to the position of Administrative Assistant (Senior Supporting Staff) and part-time lecturer. Her coworkers got along well with her.

She studied for two years for an Ordinary Diploma in Data Processing (OD) before moving to a Higher Diploma in Data Processing (HD) after a few years at the University. She then pursued a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Business Information Technology and a Masters in Educational Administration (M.Ed.) at Njala University. Soon after graduating, she was promoted to Senior Administrative Assistant Staff.

She was a dedicated employee who was continuously seeking ways to improve herself. She committed her life to the University till her death. Mrs. Efe was a devoted Christian who firmly believed in God. As a result, she was a member of New Life Ministries International, Njala Fellowship, Women's Department.