

## REPORT FROM THE MASS COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT ON THE VISIT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN PABLO COMMUNICATION TEAM.

By Matthew Kanu

### 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019: WELCOMING CEREMONY

The University of Makeni Administration staff and students of the Mass Communication Department welcomed a Communication Team from the University of San Pablo (CEU), Spain. The Communication Group comprised of professors and students from the University of San Pablo.

During the welcoming ceremony Vice Chancellor Professor Joseph Turay officially welcomed the team and praised them for strengthening the partnership between the two universities. The relationship has existed since 2009, and this is the twelfth time a Spanish team has come to the University of Makeni.

The team leaders from the University of San Pablo including the architecture and Communication said they are very happy to see the turn out from the administration to welcome them. They said they are very happy for the hospitality rendered to them as they will make use of their time spent here judiciously.

Dean Ezekiel Thulla attended the welcome ceremony and expressed gratitude to the communication team for extending a hand of friendship to the department. The communication team presented books relating to Mass Communication .

### MEETING IN THE DEPARTMENT

The meeting took place in the departmental office immediately after the welcome ceremony. The meeting was attended by the students from the Spain, students from the University of Makeni and lecturers from both sides. The proposal sent by the team from Spain was discussed. Time for various meetings was adopted. The documentary team from UNIMAK was introduced to the team from Spain. The team from Spain and UNIMAK prepared a schedule for all events or activities running through the week. Among the departmental staff that attended the meeting were the Head of Department Matthew Kanu and the Dean of the Faculty of Mass Communication and Computer Science Joseph Ezekiel Thulla

### 28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019: VISIT TO FREETOWN

On Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019 the Spanish communication team and the UNIMAK documentary team and lecturers visited Freetown . We visited the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Cooperation in Freetown and the Awoko Newspaper. The team shared ideas to all the media institutions visited. The team also learned a lot from the experiences shared by the staff of the two media institutions . The team spent the whole day in Freetown. Among the departmental

staff were the Head of Department Matthew Kanu and the departmental secretary Abdul Charles Mansaray.

## THE DOCUMENTARY TEAM

The documentary team from both sides started working immediately after the joint meeting on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The documentary teams were very active in ensuring all areas of the documentary were covered from the 26<sup>th</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2019. Communication Team leader from the University of San Pablo Professor Elena presented a gift to the UNIMAK Mass Communication documentary team and lecturers before leaving for Spain.. Raw footages of the documentary will be edited in Spain .

## 30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019 : THE SEMINAR

Professor Jurge Martinez offered a seminar on the Anthropological impact of new technologies on society proposing a theoretical practical work from some chapters of the black Mirror series. His methodology was viewing, analysis and debate. Professor Martinez proposes his seminar in the context of the subjects Anthropology or communication and culture. All the students of the department attended the seminar . The seminar was participatory .

## 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2019 :THE MEETING WITH THE DEAN OF THE POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL.

The meeting was held in the department. In attendance was Professor Elena from the University of San Pablo, Dean of the Postgraduate school of UNIMAK Professor Bob Conteh and Dean of Mass Communication Joseph Ezekiel Thulla . The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of implementing the CEU –UNIMAK Doctoral program .

Briefing the Dean of the UNIMAK Postgraduate School Professor, Professor Elena presented what the PhD Program would look like. She said the program would be done here in Sierra Leone through face to face and video conferencing tutorials. The program would also demand the candidates travel to Spain or any other country for two month within the framework of the program. This is a three or four year program because it is not a full time program as candidate would have to work while studying. Professor Elena also mentioned that the doctoral program is granted from the University of San Pablo to the University of Makeni Mass Communication department . Candidates should be able to submit thesis topics and Master's degree certificates and areas of specialization should be identified.

Professor Bob Conteh welcomed the initiative and promised to work towards achieving it . He said senate would be duly informed and actions would be taken positively. Dean of Mass Communication and Computer Science Ezekiel Thulla thank Professor Elena and the University of San Pablo for contributing in building the human resource of the department.

The areas of specializations include the following :

1. Digital Society, communication and vulnerable peoples.
2. Communication ,Public and Citizenship sphere
3. Specialization in Communication, Innovation and Technologies.

Names of candidates include the following :

1. Joseph Ezekiel Thulla
2. Matthew Kanu
3. Leonard Kamara
4. Renkeh Koroma
5. Abdul Charles Mansaray

2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2019: MEETING WITH A CROSS SECTION OF ASSOCIATION OF MASS COMMUNICATION.

This is to thank the team from Spain for the time spent with us during the week . The team was very happy to be with us as both sides learnt from each other during the week. The team departed from Sierra Leone to Spain.