

"Building a Civilization of Love"

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAKENI (UNIMAK)

SIERRA LEONE
FEBRUARY & MARCH, 2023 NEWSLETTER



Dear Partners and Friends,

I bring you warm greetings from the University of Makeni

We want to inform you that we have successfully started the second semester of the 2022/2023 academic year in line with our academic Calendar.

As we move towards our country's multitier elections in June, 2023; on a constant basis encourage our staff and students to accommodate each other despite our political differences. AS we work toward ensuring a free fair and nonviolence elections.

As we seek for more partnerships and support from around the world, we wish to express our gratitude in a special way to our partners who visited us from the San Pablo University, Madrid, Spain for successfully undertaking a breast screening exercise for our staff, students and women generally in Sierra Leone; and also helped in building capacity around mass communication, maternal and child healthcare, urban planning and delivering public lecture on nutrition, and women's health. The team was also able to engage itself in health promotion activities.

In the same way, we also appreciate the series of engagements we had with the Ibadan University of Nigeria on the development of our Faculty of Nursing and allied Health Sciences in Lunsar.

We take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Easter.

Important Announcement

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NEWSLETTER

The Mass Communication Department of the University Of Makeni (Unimak) benefited from a Training exercise and received Digital Cameras from Professor Beatriz

Professor Beatriz Guerrero Gonzalez-Valerio from the University of San Pablo Faculty of Communication has given students of the Mass communications department of unimak a thorough training on the use of digital cameras which took place on the 24th February 2023 at the University's TV studio.

The Dean of faculty, Mass communication and Computer science Mr. Leonard M. Kamara expressed special thanks to the professor for training students on the use of digital camera, and donating quality digital camera to the department. He further noted that, this will help the students get practical knowledge on what they are taught in their image and photography classes.

In receiving the Cameras, The Director of Finance and Administration, Rev. Fr. Benjamin Sesay noted that some few years ago the university through its various partners set up a standard communications laboratory which had almost every equipment needed for practical work, but that development was thwarted by a fire incident that burnt down the building to the ground, he noted that in an effort to rebuild such a lab these cameras will be a very good start as we look forward to getting more equipment.

The students appreciated the training. A Third year student, Yusuf Suma said this training will strengthen their practical skills in the field. He appreciated the University of San Pablo for the partnership with the University of Makeni's Mass communication Department.

Professor Beatriz donated 6 cameras to the department and she will continue to keep the department in her heart for any further support of equipment and training.



POPE FRANCIS APPOINT A NEW BISHOP OF THE MAKENI DIOCESE



On the 11th of February 2023, Pope Francis appointed a new Bishop of the Makeni Diocese in the person of Rev. Bob John Hassan Koroma. The pronouncement was made by the Apostolic Nuncio to Sierra Leone and Liberia Archbishop Walter Erbi.

The pronouncement was made in the Makeni Pastoral Centre Hall. Before the pronouncement, many priests, Religious Sisters, brothers and parishioners were in attendance.

Arch Bishop of Freetown Edward Tamba Charles praised the commitment of the faithful to witness the historic pronouncement. He described the Bishop-elect as a man of religious values, humble, prayerful, and a hard-working.

After the pronouncement of the Bishop elect, Bishop Natale Panganelli who is the apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Makeni for the past 12 years., in his brief response said "Today is my happiest day," He concluded that the church is one and universal

The Bishop elect Reverend Fr. Bob John Hassan Koroma accepted the call to leadership and called on priests, religious men and women, and lay faithful of the diocese of Makeni to work together.

Before his appointment, Rev, Fr. Bob John Hassan Koroma was Vica General of Makeni Diocese and Administrator of the Our Lady of Fatima Cathedral. He was ordained a priest for the Makeni Diocese on 25th April 1999. He holds a Doctorate in Biblical Theology from the Pontifical Urban University of Rome. He was Dean of studies at the St. Paul Major Seminary in Freetown from 2008 to 2014. He also served as Parish Priest of Immaculate Conception Parish in Magburaka Town, North Eastern Sierra Leone.



REPORT ON THE 2023 UNIVERSITY OF MAKENI INTERDEPARTMENTAL DEBATE, PUBLIC SPEAKING, AND POETRY CHAMPIONSHIP



(L-R) Leslie E.N. Jones, Esther B.R. Fornah, Deborah SOS Johnson and Ahmed Jalloh (southpow)

The University of Makeni Students Representative Council, together with the university debating team, recently organized an interdepartmental debate, a public speaking competition, and a poetry championship. The theme for the competition was "Securing a Better Future for Young People through Conflict Prevention, Social Transformation, and Sustainable Development," with a focus on Politics, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship.

The competition involved various departments, with each group having its own round of debates. The top eight departments proceeded to the semifinals, with Mass Communications, Law, Political Science, Development Studies, HRM, Economics, Agriculture, and Procurement being the semifinalists.

The finals were held between Mass Communications, Law, HRM, and Development Studies, with HRM emerging as the winner, followed by Mass Communications, Development Studies, and Law. **Leslie EN Jones and Esther BR Fornah** were awarded Best Male Speaker and Best Female Speaker, respectively. Leslie EN Jones was also declared the overall best orator, followed by Esther BR Fornah and Ishmail B. Omotosho.

In addition to the debate, the event included a public speaking and poetry championship. **Deborah S.O.S Johnson** won the best Public Speaker, while **Ahmad Jalloh (Southpaw)** won the best Poet award.

In conclusion, the Interdepartmental Debate and Public Speaking and Poetry Championship was a successful event, with various departments and participants showcasing their skills and knowledge on conflict prevention, social transformation, and sustainable development, with an emphasis on politics, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

THE UNIMAK PARTICIPATED IN THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE



Staff and students of the Social Work Department participated in this year's Social Work Conference. This is the first time the University of Makeni is sending representatives to the National Conference.

The National Social Work Conference was organized by the Sierra Leone Social Workers steering committee in partnership with the Government of Sierra Leone and UNICEF Sierra Leone.

All six universities were represented in the 2 days conference. All these universities offer Social Work at the undergraduate level. The conference started on the 21st and ends on the 22nd of March 2023.

This was the first conference held in Sierra Leone. The Minister of Social Welfare Baindu Dassama officially launched the Social Works Association on the 22nd of March 2023. The Association is comprised of Universities offering Social Work.

UNIMAK's Social Work Head of Department Gerard Alex Sesay said his participation in the conference would open up more partnerships and collaborations opportunities that would foster Social work at community, national and International levels. He said the aim of the conference was to look into the successes of the profession. He appreciated all stakeholders that contributed greatly to the success of the conference.

FREE BREAST CANCER SCREENING

The University of Makeni and the University of San Pablo Offers Free Cancer Screening and treatment for the women of Sierra Leone. The screening was conducted at the Holy Spirit Hospital in Makeni.

Breast Cancer Strikes a large number of women in Sierra Leone. It is, for this reason, the University of Makeni collaborated with the University of San Pablo in Madrid, Spain to find solution to this problem. “ It is essential to work together and decrease the spread of breast cancer “ said Head of Public Health Department Sr. Magdalen Umoh

On the 6th of February 2023, the Spanish team met the staff of the University of Makeni to discuss further plans and collaborations in the health sector and find a common ground to tackle the spread of breast cancer among women in post-conflict and post-epidemic country like Sierra Leone.

The University of Makeni Vice Chancellor Professor Joseph Turay expressed gratitude to the Spanish team from the University of San Pablo for providing solutions to minimizing breast cancer in Sierra Leone. “The screening is a solution to health challenges for women across the country,” he said.

University of San Pablo Dr. Xavier Santos explained in an interview that his team is providing screening, psychological support, and plastic surgery for people with deformities.



The University of Makeni (Unimak) cherishes this partnership with the San Pablo University, and Looking forward to partner with other Universities and institutions of Higher Learning around the world.

Department of Procurement Logistics and Supply Chain Management. Students meeting for second semester 2022-2023 Academic Year.

The meeting started with individual silence prayers and welcome statement. The meeting focused on:

1. Entry requirements (Mathematics and English Language)
2. Promotional policy (three reference policy for second semester)
3. Fee payment as against the stated time.
4. Second semester exams (students were cautioned and advised to start early preparations for second semester exams)
5. Take full responsibility of their studies (prioritizing their studies).
6. Questions and answers, concerns or suggestions.
7. Closing remarks from the Vice President of the Department's Association.



SUCCEED (Support, Comprehensive Care and empowerment for People with Psychosocial Disabilities in Sub- Sahara Africa) Sierra Leone received guests from Nigeria and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical medicine.



SUCCEED: Support, Comprehensive Care and Empowerment for people with psychosocial Disabilities in sub-Saharan Africa

- People with psychosocial disabilities are best able to define their own needs
- SUCCEED is co-producing design and evaluation of community-based interventions for people with psychosis in Africa.
- SUCCEED is a 6-year research programme

consortium grant awarded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)

- SUCCEED aims to build evidence on “What Works” for psychosocial disabilities in four countries (Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe and Malawi)
- The programme, which began in May 2020 has three distinct workstreams; Research, Capacity-building and Uptake
- Psychotic conditions affect only 1% of the population, but are among the most disabling mental health conditions
- The social consequences of psychosis are also equally troubling
- Access to treatment for psychotic conditions is limited, particularly in low-resource settings
- Emphasis on common mental disorders has meant neglect of psychosis
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The SUCCEED Objectives

1. Develop an evidence-based package of multi-sectoral care and support (“enhanced CBR”) for people with psychosocial disabilities that is feasible, acceptable and appropriate for low-resource, community-based settings
2. Generate new knowledge on co-production for mental health research in LMICs by modelling best practice in disability inclusion, addressing attitudinal barriers among key

stakeholders, and building the capacity of “experts by experience” to engage meaningfully in mental health research and policy

SUCCEED will follow a Theory of Change driven approach.

Research will be conducted in three stages:

1. Development: Building an evidence-base for “What Works” for co-production and psychosocial disabilities, through evidence reviews
2. Feasibility and Piloting: Conducting formative research to fill knowledge gaps, plus a pilot project to test a package of care
3. Evaluation: across four sites, implementing RCTs and process evaluations of the package of care.

The team arrived in Sierra Leone on the 5th March 2023; The purpose of their visit was to jointly conduct training of trainers on all co-production modules. The trainings started on the 6th March 2023 in the UNIMAK SUCCEED Sierra Leone office.

The trainers came from the University of Ibadan, United Kingdom and from London School of Hygiene and Tropical medicine.

The team also paid courtesy call to the University of Makeni Vice Chancellor Rev. Fr. Professor Joseph A. Turay. The purpose of the meeting was to establish partnership with the Ibadan University School of Medicine.

The SUCCEED team also met the management of the Sierra Leone Mental Health Coalition in Freetown in order to share knowledge and strengthen partnership



**UNIMAK BACKS THE FOLLOWING AWARDS : HUAMNITERIAN AWARD,
INFLUENTIAL AND PRESTIGIOUS WOMEN IN EDUCATION, BOMBALI AND
TONKOLILI DISTRICT IN SIERRA LEONE**



Madam Veronica Kamara and other staff members from the Human resource office received an award for their outstanding humaniterian services within and outside the university of Makeni, Sierria Leone.





Mrs. Mary Hawa Turay the director of the Gender office in the University of Makeni was also affirmed and recognized for her passion in mentoring young people to strive for equality among themselves regardless of their sex and tribe.



Rev. Sr. Magdalene P. Umoh from the congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame and the Head of Department Public Health in the University of Makeni was rewarded for her passion in education especially in the field of Sciences.



CONGRATULATIONS!!! CONGRATULATIONS!!!



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The University of Makeni Erasmus Scholars visited our partnering university in Spain.

The team arrived in San Pablo in Madrid Spain on the 16th March 2023. Dr. Rebecca Esliker represented the Department of Clinical Psychology, Mrs. Jelikatu Jalloh from the Gender Office and Mr. Mohmaed O Turay from the Economics Department.



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Sr. Janet U. Odey from the Congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, represented the University of Makeni in the 8th International and Inter- Universities Consortium- Africa Research Conference(8iUC- A 2023) which was held at Mount Kenya university in Kenya, Eastern Africa. The consortium is a joint collaboration between the university of Makeni, Sierra Leone, Chukwuemeka Odomegwu Ojukwu University in Nigeria, University of Eldoret Kenya, Kyambogo Ugnada , Mount Kenya university in Kenya and Vincent Poluniversity,Poland.

The consortium aims to engage in exchange programme of both staff and students, carry out research in difference with focus on Africa, and to work towards a sustainable economy in the sub- Sarah Regions.

The theme of the conference was on Participatory Leadership, Innovation and Knowledge Trnasfer for a Sustainable Economies.

Sr. Janet presented a paper in the conference on the topic : Nurturing entrepreneurship education and innovation on fragile and post- conflict countries, Case of Higher Institution of Learning in Sierra Leone.

THANKING THE MAKENI TRUST FUND FOUNDATION IN SHEFFIELD ENGLAND.

Makeni Trust Fund

March 24th, 2023

Dear Father Joe,

I am writing to let you know that The Makeni Trust Fund trustees agreed at their last meeting, to bring the formal activities of the Trust to a close over the next six months. However, I need to reassure you that we will not let down the five students we are currently supporting. In the next few months we will send you the money for these students to cover their fees, until they have completed their courses.

Over the past fourteen years we have channelled £440,000 to our partners in Makeni, the University being one of those partners. Much of the money has come from generous donors in the Diocese of Hallam, and especially parishioners at The Mother of God church in Sheffield. The money sent has delivered improvements to health and education in the town of Makeni as a result of your clear guidance.

However, the trustees feel that we no longer have the capacity to fund raise to the extent we have before, as we are all getting older, [our average age is 76 !] and therefore the time is right to formally close the charity and conduct an orderly wind down of our activities.

In closing down we will clear all our liabilities and then consider how best to allocate any remaining funds. We will ensure that any remaining funds will be sent to other charities with compatible purposes. We will of course keep in touch with you and all our friends and partners in Sierra Leone. You will always be in our prayers.

On behalf of all the trustees, I would like to offer you our heartfelt thanks for the time and help you have given us over the years. Please pass on our thanks also to Veronica Kamara and Father Benjamin, who over the years have been very helpful to us. We all admire the goodwork that you do for the people of Sierra Leone and have been pleased to have been of some help. Yours sincerely,

Delia Kay

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAKENI WELCOMED THEIR PARTNERS FROM THE LAGOS STATE UNIVERSITY, NIGERIA.

Africa Centre Of Excellence For Innovation and Transformative STEM Education (LASU- ACEITSE)
This team poised to bring into the delivery of Science, technology and mathematics education and educational management and leadership, a unique strategy that will produce innovative and transformative teachers (educators), leaders and managers capable of stimulating and sustaining the desired improvement in Science, technology , engineering and mathematics education at all levels.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE UNIVERSITY OF MAKENI (UNIMAK)

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