



# Building a Civilization of Love

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## UNIMAK NEWSLETTER

INSIDE UNIMAK

Official Newsletter of the University of Makeni, Sierra Leone

### Vice-Chancellor's Message

REV. FR. PROF JOSEPH A TURAY

Dear Readers,

As we end the 2024/2025 Academic year, I extend my warmest greetings to you all. The months of July and August are filled with activities at our university.

Recently, we received a delegation from Bath University in the United Kingdom and Notre Dame University in the United States of America. This is done to strengthen our partnership drive around the world to increase academic standards in Sierra Leone.

Our Master's graduation will be on 6 September 2025. We encouraged our Postgraduate students to carry with them not only the knowledge they have gained but also the values of integrity, service, and critical thinking that are the hallmark of our programs. We are proud of your achievements and excited to welcome you into our global network of alumni.

Our Postgraduate building is under construction. Our Academic Calendar is now ready and has been shared with our readers worldwide. We have successfully concluded our second semester on time, and we have successfully ended the academic year on time.

*Warm Regards,  
Prof. Joseph A Turay*

VICE-CHANCELLOR  
UNIVERSITY OF MAKENI



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## Public Health Department launches MPOX campaign

The Public Health Department held the first seminar and campaign on Monkeypox (Mpx) at the Yoni campus. The theme of the activity was "STOP THE SPREAD, STAY INFORMED".

The target audience was the University community, Yoni village, and Yelisanda Village. After the seminar, the students proceeded to the communities with a message of sensitization and also backed with donations of Veronica Buckets, hand-wash soap, and sanitizers. This is aimed at supporting the Ministry of Health and its partners to break the chain of transmission.

Students attended the program from different departments at the University, and also by representatives from the District Health Management Team (DHMT) to supervise and support the activity. This is the first campaign launched by a higher institution of learning that engages in such a significant campaign in rural Sierra Leone. The Head of Department, Sister Magdalene Umoh, described the campaign as a step in the right direction for the safety and care of our Sierra Leoneans. "The campaign created a huge impact in Sierra Leone," she said.

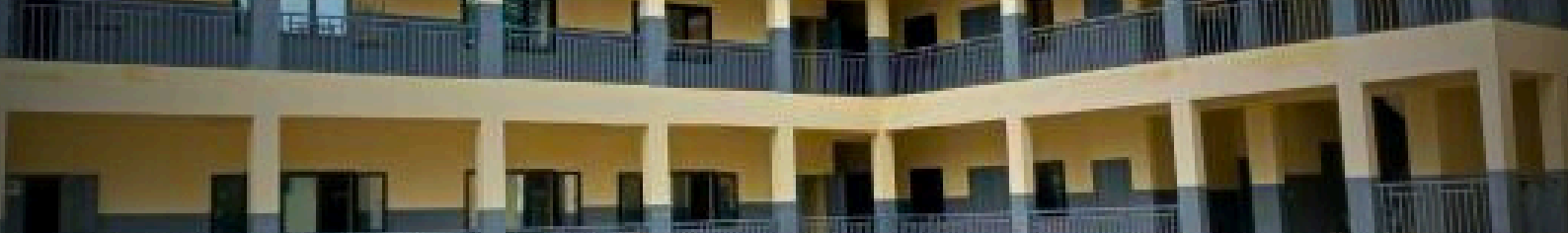


**"Stop the spread!  
Your health, your  
responsibility. Early detection  
saves lives — act fast against  
MPOX."**



**Sister Magdalene Umoh, Head of  
Department - Public Health  
-University of Makeni**





## UNIMAK VISITS CUBAN EMBASSY

**August 25, 2025,**

On August 25, 2025, a delegation from the University of Makeni visited Her Excellency Norma Sanchez Aguila, the Cuban Ambassador, in Freetown to discuss potential collaborations between the university and Cuban educational institutions. Led by Registrar Foday Augustine Bangura, the team included the Director of International Relations, Madam Mercy Mwaura, and other key staff members. The meeting focused on strengthening ties through educational exchange programs, with Ambassador Sanchez Aguila emphasizing Cuba's commitment to accessible and quality education.



The discussions explored areas of mutual interest, particularly in health sciences and engineering, and concluded with an invitation for further dialogue, highlighting the optimism for future partnerships aimed at enriching the academic experiences of students from both countries. to inclusivity, leadership, and equal opportunity in education.

***"We are grateful to the Cuban Ambassador for the reception accorded to the University of Makeni. This will increase our partnership drive within and outside Sierra Leone."***

MR. FODAY AUGUSTINE BANGURA, REGISTRAR, UNIVERSITY OF MAKENI

## VICE CHANCELLOR BIDS FAREWELL TO 3 PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Joseph Turay, said farewell to 3 staff members from the Public Health Department. The staff left the shores of Sierra Leone to pursue Postgraduate studies in different fields of academia. In Nigeria.

“As you embark on this important journey to Lagos State University for your further studies in STEM Education and Entrepreneurship, I want to take a moment to extend my heartfelt best wishes to each of you,” Professor Turay said.



The team includes Mr. Noah, pursuing your MSc in STEM Education and Entrepreneurship with a focus on Biology, and Miss Koroma and Mr. Sankoh, as you both strive for PhDs in the same discipline—Biology and Chemistry, respectively—“know that you carry not only your academic aspirations but also the hopes of our university community,” Professor Turay said. The Team thanks UNIMAKJfor the opportunity.

## UNIMAK HOSTS A DELEGATION FROM BATH UNIVERSITY

On Wednesday, 6th August 2025, a delegation from the University of Bath SPA, UK, visited the University of Makeni (UNIMAK) to discuss potential partnerships. Led by Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and Enterprise, Professor John Strachan, and including Lead for Research and Knowledge Exchange, Dr. Sheku Ahmed Fofanah, the team engaged in fruitful discussions with a cross-section of UNIMAK's academic and administrative staff.

The meeting was officially opened by UNIMAK's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Turay, and notably attended by the University's Chancellor, His Excellency Bob John Hassan Koroma. UNIMAK staff expressed their gratitude to the visiting delegation for the collaborative engagement.

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## VIVA MAKENI END SUMMER CAMP FOR 180 CHILDREN



University of Makeni and the VIVA Makeni have completed this year's Health Summer Camp in Makeni. This year's camp, ViVa Makeni is a non-governmental organization (NGO) headquartered in Madrid, Spain. The organization began its operations in Sierra Leone in 2017.

This is one of its flagship initiatives in Sierra Leone, which is the annual Health Summer Camp, which brings together 180 children from underserved communities in Makeni.

This year's camp was held from August 18th to 29th, 2025, across four locations: These include Palap, St. Andrew's, Teko, and the Pastoral Center. 180 children participated and benefited from health education and care during the program.

The camp was facilitated by international monitors and coordinators from Spain—trained in health-related fields—working alongside local monitors and coordinators from various departments of the University of Makeni (UniMak). Together, they provided guidance, education, and care to the children throughout the two-week program.

The 2025 Health Summer Camp concluded with a vibrant celebration, where children showcased presentations highlighting the lessons they had learned.

# University of Makeni Hosts Distinguished Delegation from Notre Dame University

## Makeni, Sierra Leone

In a significant step toward strengthening international academic ties, the University of Makeni (UNIMAK) on Monday, July 28, 2025, welcomed a two-person delegation from the prestigious University of Notre Dame in the United States. The delegation includes Prof. Michael Pippenger and Dr. Jackline Oluoch-Aridi. The high-level visit saw the Notre Dame representatives engage in productive discussions with UNIMAK's senior administrative staff, including the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor, respectively. The Vice Chancellor, Professor Joseph Turay expressed gratitude to the delegation for thinking about the University of Makeni.



**The Chancellor of the University of Makeni, His Excellency Bishop Bob John H. Koroma officially welcomed the delegation.**



This visit underscores the deepening partnership between the two Catholic institutions.. This is the first official meeting with a delegation from Notre Dame University. The delegation said this is its first time coming to Sierra Leone. Notre Dame University is also a Catholic University in the United States of America. All Faculty Deans and Heads of Departments attended the meeting.

The University of Makeni is the first private University in Sierra Leone. The delegation was very impressed with the presentations from the Academic and administrative staff of the University of Makeni. The Vice Chancellor expressed appreciation to the visiting team.

## UNIMAK Hosts Intensive Summer Training on Molecular Diagnosis

**Makeni, Sierra Leone—August 2025**

The University of Makeni (UNIMAK) is currently holding intensive summer classes focused on the molecular diagnosis of human and animal diseases at its Infectious Diseases Research Laboratory (IDRL) on the Yoni campus.

The program aims to provide vital laboratory training to students and staff from the university's public health and agriculture departments. Vice Chancellor Professor Joseph Turay expressed his gratitude to the visiting Spanish team of professors and students for their role in this important capacity-building initiative.



The IDRL, where the training is being held, was established in 2016 as a collaborative effort between UNIMAK and the University of Cambridge, UK, with funding from the Wellcome Trust. The lab was instrumental during the Ebola epidemic in Sierra Leone, enabling rapid sequencing of the virus to aid in containment efforts. Its ongoing work includes studying disease patterns, drug resistance, and public health protection measures. The training, which involves practical lab work and lectures, is a continuation of UNIMAK's commitment to advancing scientific research and education in Sierra Leone

## SUCCEED Sierra Leone Wraps Up Writing and Academic Support Sessions!

**Makeni, Sierra Leone—September, 2025**

From September 10th to 12th, 2025, SUCCEED Sierra Leone hosted a three-day workshop focused on academic writing, held in the Virtual Classroom at the University of Makeni's Fatima Campus. This engaging event aimed to elevate the academic writing capabilities of staff while cultivating essential research skills.

Guided by Dr Ritsuko Kakuma an associate Professor from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), along with SUCCEED Sierra Leone's Program Veronica Kamara and Research Coordinator Amjata Bayoh, participants experienced interactive discussions and hands-on learning.

The sessions covered crucial elements of academic writing, such as structuring research papers, developing coherent arguments, and upholding ethical research practices.

These workshops are part of SUCCEED AFRICA ongoing dedication to equip staff with research capabilities in the nation and empowering staff within the academic sphere.

