



**KONO CONFERENCE 2016: PAVING THE WAY FOR BETTER PROSPECT**  
UNDERSTANDING THE PAST, MARKING THE CHALLENGES AND SHAPING OUR FUTURE

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## **THE 1<sup>ST</sup> KONO CONFERENCE REPORT 28<sup>TH</sup> – 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2016.**

**THEME:** Paving the way for better prospects: Understanding the past, Marking the challenges, and Setting our future.

**VENUE:** School of Oriental and African Studies (SAAS), University of London, Vernon Square, London WC1X 9EL.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Kono Conference held in London was a two-day programme organised by the Kono District Development Association (KDDA) UK under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kai Ngegba, in partnership with other Kono District Diaspora organisations. The aim of the conference was to provide a conducive environment for all stakeholders to discuss and debate the challenges and opportunities facing Kono District and Sierra Leone at large. The objectives were;

1. Highlighting issues of concern to Kono District in Sierra Leone.
2. Developing strategies and action plan to address issues.
3. Discuss and finalise developmental projects and feasible proposals.
4. To agree on measures that will facilitate and promote a business-friendly environment in Kono District.
5. Promote progress and development in Sierra Leone.

The Chairman of the 1<sup>st</sup> Kono conference was Mr. Saa David Dingiswayo Nyandemo. The initial planning arrangements were either discussed at KDDA UK meetings or via international teleconference meetings. The following committees were formed to assist the Chairman in ensuring a successful outcome;

**Budgeting Team:** Dr. Kai Ngegba, Mrs. Mariama Mafinda, Mr. Dingiswayo Nyandemo, and Mr. Aiah Bondowa Tondoneh.

**Project Committee:** Mr. Sahr M'Gbenbo Kondeh, Mr. Aiah Bondowa Tondoneh, Mr. Tamba Opas Jimmy-Kay, Mr. Sahr Fasuluku, and Mr. Sahr Adimoinjae Mafinda.

**Content and Project Management Committee:** Dr. Joseph D. Mondeh, Dr. Sahr M'Gbenbo Kondeh, Dr. Fuambai Sia Ahmadu, Mr. Saa David Dingiswayo Nyandemo, and Mr. Aiah Fanday.

Secretariat: Mr. Aiah Yornie Sodengbe and Mr. Tamba Gborie

The conference brought together delegates from Afganistan, Germany, Holland, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Korea, United Kingdom and the United States. There was a total number of one hundred and seventy (170) delegates, covering the two days period. The conference provided a dynamic opportunity for self-reflection and a conducive avenue to discuss daunting challenges and solutions facing kono District in particular and Sierra Leone in general.

The conference was opened with an Islamic prayer by Sheikh Alhaji Ahmadu Sulaiman Bah, followed by a Christian prayer by Mr. Feias Gbondo-Saquee. The opening remarks was delivered by the 1<sup>st</sup> Kono Conference Chairman Mr. Saa David Dingiswayo Nyandemo. The keynote address was delivered by His Worship Mayor Saa Emerson Lamina, Mayor of Koidu New Sembehun City Council (KNSCC) in Kono District, Sierra Leone. The two days conference was packed with inspiring speakers and lively discussions. The Moderator for the first day of the conference was Her Royal Highness (HRH) Princess Moradeun Adedoyin-Solarin and the Moderator for the second day was Mr. Ade Daramy.

Following the deliberations on various subjects and varying presentations by delegates, the following resolutions were agreed:

1. To set up a Kono Development Fund. We are appealing to each member of the Kono District Diaspora community and friends of Kono District to contribute a minimum of USD100.00 towards creating a standing fund. All Diaspora organisations should assist in facilitating the collection of this donation and coordinate with the Kono Conference Secretariat for record purposes. Modalities to manage this fund would be decided on as soon as possible.
2. To insist on the reinstatement of His Worship Mayor Saa Emerson Lamina to his office as Mayor, Koidu New Sembehun City Council (KNSCC) in Kono District, Sierra Leone.
3. To organise the Kono Conference annually and convene the next Kono Conference in USA.
4. To open a Diaspora Office in Koidu city, Kono District, Sierra Leone.
5. To set up standing committees to implement policies in the following sectors: a) Education b) Mining c) Energy d) Culture and Tourism e) Infrastructure, Environment and Water quality f) Health & Sanitation g) Youth development h) Business
6. To promote twinning partnership with KNSCC and a city in Europe with focus on Health and Educational issues in Koidu city.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Kono Conference Organising Committee wish to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all delegates and visitors, who through their attendance have made history in being pioneers in

the development of Kono district in eastern Sierra Leone. You have indeed paved the way for better prospects in Kono district.

We wish to thank our moderators; Her Royal Highness (HRH) Princess Moradeun Adedoyin-Solarin and Mr. Ade Daramy for their wealth of experience and professionalism which was instrumental in tailoring the conference to our desired objectives. Thanks to our brilliant Speakers who made the conference thought provoking. We kindly extend our greatest regards to Mr. Ade Daramy who secured the venue for the conference at no cost to organisers, and to Mr. Komba Tondoneh for donating souvenirs for delegates.

We also wish to extend special thanks to the Caterer Evangelist Sia Mary Sumana for her delicious recipes, volunteers, members of the Kono District Development Association (KDDA) UK, the Kono Union USA Inc, the Kono District Global Organisation (KDGO), the Kono community at home and the Diaspora community for their financial and various support which contributed immensely to the success of this conference.

Your continued support and cooperation is very much appreciated.

## **KONO CONFERENCE CHALLENGES**

We were delighted that the attendance at the 1<sup>st</sup> Kono Conference was impressive. Delegates provided feedback on their experience and this was shared in parallel discussions and via questionnaires provided at the conference. Some committee members listed for specific roles, were not functional and this created unnecessary burden on other committee members. There is a need to set out working modalities and guidelines for committee members to ensure smooth standard operating procedures. Defined disciplinary actions must be in place for members who violate these protocols.

Our final resolutions from the evaluation of this conference will help us to prepare a better conference in 2017. Improving on the organisational structure with defined duties for specified period will ensure continuity and robust monitoring strategies for success. It will be helpful if presentation copies and curriculum vitae (CVs) are made available to the conference secretariat at the earliest opportunity for record purposes. It was an ambitious conference and unique by nature, being the first of its kind. Future conference programmes must be thoroughly condensed to suit the duration of the conference. We will appreciate your comments as we look forward to welcoming you to the next Kono conference 2017 in USA.

## **PROGRAMME**

The detailed programme was action packed as shown below. It was adjusted by organisers as the conference progressed. The following report is a synopsis of presentations and deliberations over the two days. Some presentations, CVs, Video clips, and PowerPoint presentations can be freely accessed via the Kono Conference website



DAY 1



ITEM NO	ITEM	RESPECTIVE SPEAKER	TIME MIN	COMPLETIVE TIME MIN	COMPLETIVE TIME HR	START TIME	END TIME
1000	<b>SESSION 1 - CHAIR</b>	<b>ADE DARAMY</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>10:03</b>	
1	Prayers (Christian & Muslim)	Pastor Komba Mbawah/ Mr. Ahmed Sulaiman Bah	5	8	0.13	10:08	
2	Introduction of the Conference programme & the Moderator	Aiah Sodongbe	6	14	0.23	10:14	
3	Opening Remarks by the Conference Convenor	David Nyandemo	7	21	0.35	10:21	
4	Welcome address by the Host Association's Chairman	Dr Kai Ngegba	7	28	0.47	10:28	
5	Kono Words of Wisdom and Traditional Well Wishes	PC. Edward Mbiawah	7	35	0.58	10:35	
6	Cultural Rendition- 2 Songs (Inspiring, reflective, sombre)	London Ensemble	9	44	0.73	10:44	
7	Kono History and worthy background information	Chief Aiah Songu-Mbrivah	13	57	0.95	10:57	
8	Video & Audio Messages; Streaming	Media Team	8	65	1.08	11:05	
9	<b>PANEL FOR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS</b>	Session Speakers	10	75	1.25	11:15	
10	<b>REFRESHMENT BREAK</b>	All Delegates	15	90	1.50	11:30	
	<b>SESSION 2 - CHAIR</b>	<b>DR TAMBA YARJAH</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>1.53</b>	<b>11:32</b>	
11	Speaker 1: (Keynote Speaker): Socioeconomic Activities In Kono District and the Impact on future generations	Chief Sam-Sumana	15	104	1.73	11:47	
12	Speaker 2: Legal perspectives and advocacy within the Kono Communities	Ms L. Clardige	15	119	1.98	12:02	
13	Speaker 3: Rural Development in Kono-Inspiring Case report	Dr. J. D. Mondeh	14	133	2.22	12:16	
14	Reference to Posters	Dr Saa Kabuta	9	142	2.37	12:25	
15	<b>PANEL FOR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS</b>	Session Speakers	20	165	2.75	12:45	
16	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	All Delegates	45	210	3.50	13:30	
	<b>SESSION 3 - CHAIR</b>	<b>DR FUAMBAI AHMADU</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>3.55</b>	<b>13:33</b>	
17	Parallel Session 1: Kono Unity, Cohesion & History: A more steadfast and positive Kono	Sahr Pombor	32	242	4.03	14:05	
18	Parallel Session 2: Current problems/ issues, Suggested Solutions	Dr Sahr Kondeh	242	403			
19	Parallel Session 3: Kono Development and Future: Policies, Strategies & Possibilities	Dr Saa Kabuta	242	403			
20	Parallel Session 4: Website & Social Media development for Enlightenment & Human Rights in Kono Tapping into unknown or underutilised resources	Sahr Fasuluku	242	403			
21	Presentation of the Session 1 & Ques/ Answer	Sahr Pombor	10	252	4.20	14:15	
22	Presentation of the Session 2 & Ques/ Answer	Dr Sahr Kondeh	10	262	4.37	14:25	
23	Presentation of the Session 3 & Ques/ Answer	Dr Saa Kabuta	10	272	4.53	14:35	
24	Presentation of the Session 4 & Ques/ Answer	Sahr Fasuluku	10	282	4.70	14:45	
25	<b>REFRESHMENT BREAK</b>	All Delegates	15	300	5.00	15:00	
	<b>SESSION 4 - CHAIR</b>	<b>FATIMA WAHAB</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>5.03</b>	<b>15:02</b>	
26	Short Contribution 1: TOSHPA Involvement in SL and eventual extension to Kono	Susan Bonyo-Laggy	7	306	5.10	15:09	
27	Short Contribution 2: Achievements & Contributions of Kono in the Development of Sierra Leone & the District	Aiah Martin Mondeh	7	313	5.22	15:16	
28	Short Contribution 3: Education in Kono-Possible approaches for improvement	Rev. Kumba Samura	7	320	5.33	15:23	
29	Short Contribution 4: What can/ should the Kono Diagonors do for Kono: Messages from Kono's all over the world	Media Team	7	327	5.45	15:30	
30	Short Contribution 5: Hopes and Aspirations of younger Kono's	Sia Bockarie	7	334	5.57	15:37	
31	Speaker 4: Effective Charity & NGO fundraising and mission: How could Kono benefit?	Philip Bona	14	348	5.80	15:51	
32	Rearrange the Hall	Everyone	4	352	5.87	15:55	
33	<b>PANEL FOR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS</b>	Session Speakers	20	375	6.25	16:15	
34	Outcomes of Day 1	Tamba Lamina	10	382	6.37	16:25	
35	Closing Remarks for the day	Mariam Mafinda	5	387	6.45	16:30	
36	Tidying up and vacating the building	Everyone	25	412	6.87	16:55	

DAY 2



ITEM NO	ITEM	RESPECTIVE SPEAKER	TIME MIN	COMPLETIVE TIME MIN	COMPLETIVE TIME HR	START TIME	END TIME
1000	<b>SESSION 5 - CHAIR</b>	<b>DR J. D. MONDEH</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>10:02</b>	
1	Prayers (Christian & Muslim)	Pastor Saa Johnny/ Mr. Ahmed Sulaiman Bah	5	7	0.12	10:07	
2	Housekeeping Issues	Aiah Dwanmy	2	9	0.15	10:09	
3	Address by the Kono Global Chair	Aiah Fanday	8	17	0.28	10:17	
4	Welcome address by the Kono Union-USA President	Dr Fuamba Ahmadu	8	25	0.42	10:25	
5	Speaker 5: The Failed State-it's effect on Politics in SL & in Kono in particular	Prof. Zac Williams	15	40	0.67	10:40	
6	Speaker 6 (Guest Speaker): An Evaluation of Kono District's Political and Socioeconomic Development since Independence	Mayor Saa Emerson Lamina	15	55	0.92	10:55	
7	Further Messages & News Writers, Audio/Video, Etc	Media Team	5	60	1.00	11:00	
8			60	1.00	11:00		
9	<b>PANEL FOR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS</b>	Session Speakers	15	75	1.25	11:15	
10	<b>REFRESHMENT BREAK</b>	All Delegates	15	90	1.50	11:30	
	<b>SESSION 6 - CHAIR</b>	<b>DR SAA KABUTA</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>1.55</b>	<b>11:33</b>	
11	Speaker 7: Mining Strategies and Collaborative for Kono Development	Andy Whitmore	15	108	1.80	11:48	
12	Speaker 8: Embracing our Past, Leveraging our Collective Talents to Chart a Sustainable Future for Kono	Fatima Wahab	15	123	2.05	12:03	
13	Speaker 9: Kono's Economy and the Need for Diversification	Dr Tamba Yarjah	15	138	2.30	12:18	
14	Reference to FAQs & Conference Goals	Sahr Otto Fasuluku	7	145	2.42	12:25	
15	<b>PANEL FOR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS</b>	Session Speakers	20	165	2.75	12:45	
16	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	All Delegates	45	210	3.50	13:30	
	<b>SESSION 7 - CHAIR</b>	<b>TAMBA LAMINA</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>3.55</b>	<b>13:33</b>	
17	Parallel Session 5: The People's Parliament- Motions and Resolutions from the Conference	Aiah Fanday	32	245	4.08	14:05	
18	Parallel Session 6: Young Kono's- Their Views, Choices & Future	Jimmy K Opat	245	408			
19	Parallel Session 7: Specific Essential Projects, Goals	Dr Kai Ngegba	245	408			
20	Parallel Session 8: Melling pot Kono's Identity, Culture, Traditions, Language & Anthropology of Kono	Dr Fuamba Ahmadu	245	408			
21	Presentation of the Session 5 & Ques/ Answer	Aiah Fanday	10	255	4.25	14:15	
22	Presentation of the Session 6 & Ques/ Answer	Jimmy K Opat	10	265	4.42	14:25	
23	Presentation of the Session 7 & Ques/ Answer	Dr Kai Ngegba	10	275	4.58	14:35	
24	Presentation of the Session 8 & Ques/ Answer	Dr Fuamba Ahmadu	10	285	4.75	14:45	
25	<b>REFRESHMENT BREAK</b>	All Delegates	15	300	5.00	15:00	
	<b>SESSION 8 - CHAIR</b>	<b>PHILIP BONA</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>5.03</b>	<b>15:02</b>	
26	Short Contribution 6: Health and Mental Health in Kono- a future perspective	Dr Joseph Mondeh	7	309	5.15	15:09	
27	Short Contribution 7: Encouraging positive, healthy Competition- Collection of Essays and Winner's Prize	Dr Sahr Kondeh	7	316	5.27	15:16	
28	Short Contribution 8: Working toward greater Business, Employment & Financial Growth in SL & in Kono- Possible Model(s)	Bashiru Vandy	7	323	5.38	15:23	
29	Short Contribution 9: Institutions, which are required in Kono	Aiah Sodongbe	7	330	5.50	15:30	
30	Short Contribution 10: AFFORD Contribution	AFFORD	7	337	5.62	15:37	
31	Speaker 10: A Remarkable Sickle Cell Charity (SCAN)	Evelyn Nyandemo	14	351	5.85	15:51	
32	Prayer Witness	Saa Kabuta	4	355	5.90	15:55	
33	<b>PANEL FOR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS</b>	Session Speakers	20	375	6.25	16:15	
34	Outcomes of the Conference Days 1 & 2	Aiah Tondoh	15	390	6.50	16:30	
35	Closing Conference Remarks	David Nyandemo	5	395	6.58	16:35	
36	Tidying up and vacating the building	Everyone	20	415	6.92	16:55	

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The Conference aims to provide a conducive environment for all stakeholders to discuss and debate the challenges and opportunities facing Kono District and Sierra Leone at large. Our objectives include;

- Highlighting issues of concern to Kono District in Sierra Leone.
- Developing strategies and action plan to address issues.
- Discuss and finalise developmental projects and feasible proposals.
- To agree on measures that will facilitate and promote a business-friendly environment in Kono District.
- Promote progress and development in Sierra Leone.

NOTES



Kono District is a diamond-rich district in the Eastern Province of Sierra Leone. Its capital and largest city is Koidu Town. The other major towns in the district include Motema, Yengema, Tombodu, Jaama Nimikor and Sewafe and kankordu. The district is the largest diamond producer in Sierra Leone. The population of Kono District is 505,767 [1]. Kono District borders Kenema District to the southwest, The Republic of Guinea to the east, Koinadugu District to the northeast and Kallahun District to the southeast. Kono District is divided into fourteen chiefdoms [2].

Kono District is one of the most ethnically diverse Districts in Sierra Leone and is home to a large population of many of Sierra Leone's ethnic groups although the kono form the largest. The district population is religiously diverse among muslims and christians.

Before the civil war, Kono District had a population well over 600,000 [citation needed]; however, it experienced devastation during the Sierra Leone Civil War, which forced many of the residents out of the district. The district was heavily looted and constantly fought over due to the rich diamond reserves in the area.



## DAY 1: THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2016

Day 1 of our conference commenced with the chairman of the Kono conference, **Mr. Saa David Dingiswayo Nyandemo** welcoming participants and calling on **Sheikh Alhaji Ahmed Sulaiman Bah** and **Mr. Feias Gbondo-Saquee**, to conduct the Islamic and Christian prayers respectively. The Secretary of the London Kono conference **Mr. Aiah Yornie Sodengbe** then explained the reasons for holding the conference and reminded participants of the theme and objectives of the conference. A minute silence was observed for past heroes of the struggle who fought tirelessly for the interests of Kono District. He also drew attention to the apathy of the authorities to the daunting challenges of the Kono people despite the rich resources in the region. The Secretary then introduced the moderator for the session as **Her Royal Highness (HRH) Princess Moredeun Adedoyin-Solarin**.



## THE KONO CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS



The Kono Conference Chairman 2016, Mr. Saa David Dingiswayo Nyandemo

The Kono conference chairman was introduced by the moderator and then delivered his address titled **Opening Remarks by the Conference Convener** as follows;

His worship the Mayor of Koidu City, distinguished guests ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the conference organising committee I am most honoured and delighted to welcome you to the 1<sup>st</sup> Kono conference dubbed the London Kono Conference 2016.

It is an event that is long overdue, several attempts have been made to organise this event that have come to naught but for the patience and tenacity of this organising committee we are here today.

We are conducting this conference as a non-political venture but purely as a Kono event for and about Kono District and the people of Kono

As chairman of the conference I know that the success of the conference depends ultimately on the organising committee who have spent endless hours on the phone deliberating to make sure that the dream of the London Kono Conference becomes a reality.

Over the years kono District has been faced with numerous challenges ranging from economic, social and political disintegration. I must hasten to say that many failed attempts have been made in the past address these challenges. It is upon this premise that the Kono District Development Association KDDA in collaboration with other diaspora organisations organised this conference in line with our core values to provide the appropriate conducive environment for Sierra Leone in general and the Kono District in particular.

The theme of this conference is:

**PAVING THE WAY FOR BETTER PROSPECTS: UNDERSTANDING THE PAST, MARKING THE CHALLENGES AND SETTING THE FUTURE.**

The conference has five objectives:

- 1) To highlight the issues of concern to the Kono District
- 2) To develop strategies and action plan to address issues.
- 3) To discuss and finalise developmental projects and feasibility proposals.
- 4) To agree on measures that will facilitate and promote a business – friendly environment in the Kono District.
- 5) To promote progress and development in Sierra Leone.

Today marks an important milestone in the history of the Kono District as we commence the birth of a tradition. A tradition that generations unborn will cherish and embrace. It is the hope that effective as from today that the people of the Kono District will come together at a chosen venue either annually or bi-annually to examine resolutions being adopted and find solutions to issues besetting our district. Ladies and gentlemen, conference shall create a permanent secretariat to ensure continuity and to oversee the management of projects.

As the theme indicates, we shall look at the past as it is of no less importance as understanding our past is one of the key ingredients in establishing our personality and identity as Kono People. We shall look at how we got it right during the days of (AR DIYAMA ER BANTO KONO) when the District was known as the land of milk and Horney and our mantra of KONO E KON FA reigned supreme.

We shall examine our recent past that saw us being engulfed in a senseless civil war that destroyed everything in its path. We shall then start the process of paving the way for better prospects.

Ladies and gentlemen, I do ask your indulgence to forgive us for the mistakes we have made in accomplishing this herculean task of putting this conference together. Being the first Kono conference, no template was available to follow we had to do original thinking to create a template that hopefully future generations will adopt and adapt to suit their needs.

Ladies and gentlemen my solemn plea to us here today is for us to love each other and put the needs of our district at the centre of our activities. Let us be our brother's keeper and let us revive our glorious mantra of Kono e Kono fa.

I once more welcome you all to The London Kono Conference 2016 and let the conference Commence.



Mayor Lamina with the Conference Secretary and Chairman

## **KDDA CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME ADDRESS**

The Keynote Speaker ,His Worship the Mayor of the Koidu New Sembenhun City Council, Mr. Saa Emerson Lamina, the associate organisers of the London Kono Conference, Dr.Fuambai Amadu President of the Kono Union USA, the Kono Global Chaiman Mr .Aiah

Fanday, the delegates from the United States of America , the delegates from the Netherlands, the London Kono Conference Chairman Mr. David Nyandemo, distinguished guests, the members of the Board of Trustees of the Kono District Development Association (KDDA) UK, ladies and gentlemen.

It is great honour bestowed on me as the Chairman of the KDDA to stand before you all great people in this auditorium this morning to express my sincere thanks to you for coming to grace this wonderful occasion.

The Kono District Development Association is a Diaspora organisation set up by students from the Kono District of Sierra Leone since in the 1950s.It has been going through series of transformation over the years until the 1990s when it acquired its final name KDDA.

The KDDA has always played prominent role in the lives of both the citizens of kono district in the Diaspora and in the Kono District of Sierra Leone.

Since I became chairman of the organisation, it started like a dream among us the members to organise either a workshop or a conference or symposium on our homeland Kono. Today the dream

has become a reality. A conference is here, first of its kind bringing together all enlightened determined konos and their descendants and friends to sit down and look back and understand the past. Decide what to do about the present state of the Kono district. We are not here to talk politics because the KDDA is not a political organisation, in another ward it is a politically neutral organisation. We are here to find ways and means to first of all make peace and reconciliation with one another, come together and be each other's keeper. Let us revive the old kono adalge "kono aeh kono fa", meaning a kono person cannot kill another Kono person.

After series of consultations with one another, we came up with this bright idea to organise a global conference and invite all kono indigenes around the world to come and sit together, deliberate on issues affecting our homeland kono in Sierra Leone in terms of social development, health and education among other things. The leaders of Kono and the country as a whole are doing their best but we feel kono in the 21<sup>st</sup> century should have more and therefore we have decided to help to bring in the necessary changes we want to see in kono, and that is how we are marking the challenges and setting the future for kono, for our children and the generations to come.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with great pleasure to tell you that our greatest desire here today is to extend a gracious and inclusive welcome to all of you here who have left all your busy schedules to come to listen to us and to help us to bring that change we want to see in Kono today.

Thank you and may God bless you all.



*Dr. Kai Ngegba, KDDA UK Chairman*



*The Chairman of KDDA UK – Dr. Kai Ngegba, seated second from left in the photo above. Third from left is HRH Princess Moradeun Adedoyin-Solarin. Far right is Mr. Tamba Gbamo. All answering questions from delegates.*





The next speaker was **Mr. Tamba Gbamoï**, who spoke on the subject **Kono History and worthy background information**. He opined that there will be no development without political undertone. He spoke about the three strata systems which included the most influential, the middle class and the youth or 'sand sand boys'. He stressed that various governments have failed the Kono people and that the Konoman's problem is himself.



Then followed the Cultural Rendition; three inspiring songs were sang, from left to right, by Mrs. Gloria Bondu Kongormanyi, Mrs. Elizabeth Nganga Tondoneh, Mrs. Sia Evelyn Nyandemo and Mrs. Patricia Bondu Saffa

**Video streaming:** A message from the President of Ansarul Alumni Association Sister **Fatima Wahab** in USA titled – Embracing our past, leveraging our collective talents to chart a sustainable future for Kono.

SHORT VERSION:18 MINUTES

<https://youtu.be/wvkyv5uVHo4>

LONG VERSION = 30 mins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RofMpPJ6O5c>

There was a question and answer session with panellists on the high table. Mr. Tamba Jibao Sorkai Lamina in his comment, stressed the need for tangible outcomes. Mr. Steven Gbemie stated the truth mentality must be the way forward for the progress of Kono district. Dr. Fuambai Sia Ahmadu, the President of Kono Union USA, a first generation Kono American, commented on the need to stop the fragmentation of Kono organisations in the Diaspora and the illegal mining operations in Kono district. Dr. Aminata Sesay urged delegates to understand the past but not to dwell on it. She informed delegates that she is building a school in Kono district and looking forward to partners. Mr. Philip Bona appealed to delegates to engage via networking.

Mr. Steven Gbemie and Mr. Eddie Finnegan (Former Vice Principal of Yengema Secondary School) in the following picture.



The **keynote Speaker was Mayor Saa Emerson Lamina**, Mayor of Koidu Sembehun City Council in Kono district. He spoke on the topic: **An Evaluation of Kono District's Political and Socioeconomic Developments since Independence**. Mayor Saa Emerson Lamina's Keynote speech follows;

**PROTOCOL OBSERVED:**

I am delighted to address this all important august looking gathering and in an occasion that marks my

maiden visit to the United Kingdom.

Following the political chicanery ongoing in the state of affairs concerning Kono, may I take this opportunity to express my unreserved appreciation to all of you for the love and kindness demonstrated to me particularly and Kono during this phase of history, I would like to re-echo and reiterate my profound appreciation to the Diaspora family especially KDDA, KU-USA, KPU-USA, KDGO, etc for being resolute in their decision within the context of solidarity which shall certainly yield a good dividend for all and sundry.

In addition, may I hasten up to assure that my being elected into the highest office in the municipality of Koidu by you directly or indirectly was not a mistake but a rather sound decision guided and aided by a divine intervention. If for any reason it has been interrupted on groundless allegations, I leave that with TIME, CONSCIENCE and ETERNITY.

Kono District geo-political features show that it is located in the north-eastern part of Sierra Leone, it has a large land size of about 5,641 sq. km.; densely populated with about 505,767 people according to the 2015 provisional census results. It could be recalled that during the almost 11-year civil war, Kono was hit the most. It comprises of 14 chiefdoms, 72 sections, 27 political wards, 9 constituencies, 41 bi partisan (APC & SLPP) councilors including a district council Chairman and an embattled Mayor, with 1,351 localities (villages) with 86 public health units and 1 referral central hospital, 48 secondary schools and 234 Primary schools in a cosmopolitan domain whose folks' livelihoods mainly depend on mining, subsistent agriculture and trade.

Considering the swing nature of Kono District in terms of politics, Sierra Leones history can hardly be completed by failing to acknowledge the active participation of Kono into the body politics of APC, SLPP, KPM and DCP respectively. The decision of choosing the first Kono man to become a vice presidential running mate was largely influenced by the historical and political agreement between the Konos and APC; adding to the fact that Kono District's vote was considered crucial in determining the winner of the Presidency. The APC eventually won the 2007 and 2012 presidential elections and a Kono first in the history of Sierra Leone became a Vice President. Sadly, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, the APC committee of nine expelled the Elected Vice President Chief Sam-Sumana from the Party and as Vice President of Sierra Leone after being relieved as Vice president by His Excellency the President Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma. I do not intend to dwell on the legality or otherwise in this Short

Statement. But I believe as concerned persons about Sierra Leone and Kono in particular, you must have enlightened yourselves about this matter.

As you are aware, the matter was brought to the Supreme Court for determination and the outcome of which you are all aware of. I am reliably informed from the grapevine that Chief Sam Sumana intends to seek redress from the ECOWAS sub-regional court. The said court is an international court which was set by the 16 Heads of States to deal with Matters relating to Human Rights Abuses, Security Matters which has the potential to breach the security of the states.

In the past independence era unto a time a Kono man became a Vice President in Sierra Leone, the main political actors in Kono district namely: members of parliament, ministers of Government, local party executives and the paramount chiefs maintained and exhibited a spirit of tolerance and peaceful co-existence despite divergent political associations. In other words, they always agree to protect the vital interest of the district.

These tranquil state of affairs took a U-turn from 2013 to date. The members of parliament of the district have failed to perform their duties both at constituency level and in parliament. In fact, the people of Kono do not even feel their presence whether they exist or not.

Our paramount chiefs have seized to perform their traditional functions as natural leaders. On the contrary, they are in all practical respect political agents of government. They even select political party candidates of ruling government instead of party selecting their candidates.

Ministers from kono are better known for fermenting discord and troubles rather than promoting harmony and development. It is generally acknowledged that a house divided against itself will not stand. Therefore, lack of unity across the board i.e the politicians, the chiefs, the youth, the generality of Kono society today is characterized by disunity, mistrust, infighting malaise and lack of focus to defend and protect the interest of the district.

Those of us who are on ground have been following development strongly maintained that the course of this intolerable state of affairs in Kono can be attributed to external influence and manipulation.

Despite all of these, the verse majority of the people who still remain silent are concern about the wellbeing of the district. This statement will be incomplete if I do not comment on the state of mining in the district. As you would agree with me alluvial diamond mining used to be a major activity of the people of Kono. Because of the many years of mining, the alluvia mining lands available at the moment is extremely limited and in the areas where such mining is visible requires substantial capital investment which is beyond the reach of our people.

Therefore, very few people are now engaged in alluvia mining in the district. There is a major industrial mining company in the district owned by OCTEA, a South African Jewish company which has a long lease of government unto 2030. Sad enough that the company contributes virtually nothing to the development of Kono and despite many representations by individuals, the Koidu City Council and Civil Society to government in order to prevail on this company with socio-economic developments of the district, the appeals have not yielded the desired fruits. The Kono people are unhappy about the following developments:

1. Government development projects in the district is too slow in comparism to other districts of Sierra Leone.
2. The Kono district's contribution to the national wealth is not commensurate with the extent of development to the district.
3. Contract for projects in Kono which are supposed to be awarded to Konos in fulfillment of the local content policy are instead giving to outsiders.
4. The excessive use of force by the police in dealing with civil unrest in Kono as opposed to other areas in the country
5. The questionable removal from office of the Vice president Chief Sam Sumana who happens to be one of our kinsmen.
6. The unwarranted interference of party stalwarts into Local Chieftaincy elections in contravention of the 2009 Chieftaincy Act of Sierra Leone.
7. The recent illicit town mining activities carried on by one Isreali born Max Brandwyne in contravention to the Mines and Mineral Act of 2009 despite being condemned by NMA and EPA respectively.
8. The unlawful indefinite suspension of the Mayor of Koidu City despite the fact that the 32 pages audits report of the Internal Audit of the Ministry of Finance cleared him of any wrong doing. Against this background the state of affairs in Kono is highly complicated.

#### The way forward

1. We need to invoke a divide intervention of the Almighty God to help pave the way to address the multiple suffering of the Kono people.
2. As the most important asset of every nation is its human resource, the development of the youth whose contribution to national development is considered crucial; in other words, education should be accorded top priority attention.
3. Civil society to be articulate and vigorous in enlightening the people about their rights and responsibilities.
4. To promote public private partnership within Kono communities is also key.
5. We need to cultivate a spirit of self-reliance to develop our feeder roads, infrastructure etc.
6. Our chiefs at the local level should go back to the drawing board in providing good leadership for their people.
7. Community media and media practitioners need to be encouraged and supported for a better service delivery to the people.



8. We need to groom and support quality representation of the people especially for politics and other decision-making offices.
9. It cannot be gained said that the outcome of the court ruling between the Koidu City Council Vs Ocea mining company on the payment of property taxes as in sections 69-72 of the LGA 2004 glaringly misdirected justice. Thus, it is high time, we came up with an appeal in a more senior court of justice.

However, if our resolved to transform our society into a better standard is anything to go by, then it would serve a very good and sound purpose that we put aside all our individual social and political differences and amicably join hands to work towards the developing of our beloved land in this peaceful democratic dispensation.

### **PROTOCOL OBSERVED**

At this juncture, I would like to call all and encourage all our Kono brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers and friends from all organizations and works of life to give their total and invaluable support to the Mayor and other well-meaning politicians and chiefs of Kono towards the bringing of sustaining developments for the benefits of all and sundry.

I thank you all for your undivided attention.



*His Worship Mayor Saa Emerson Lamina with a Piper.*

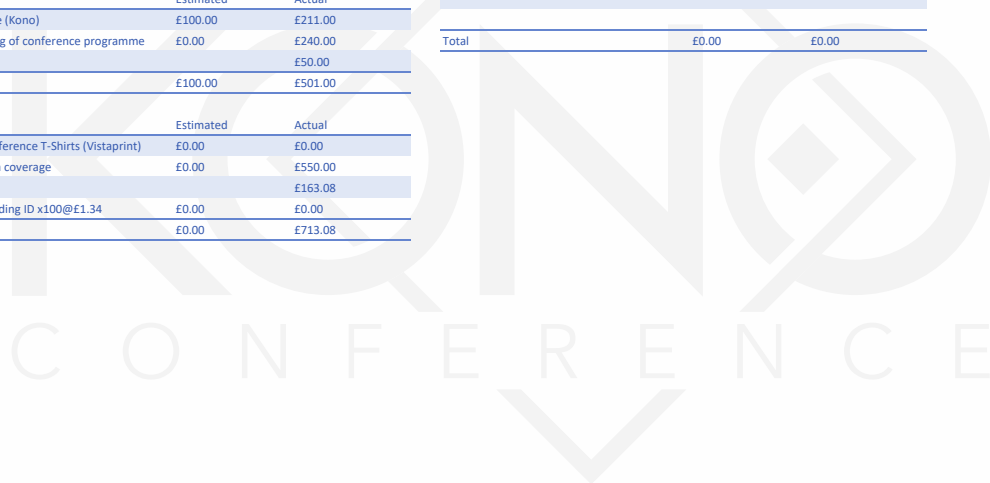


# KONO CONFERENCE BUDGET 2016

## Event Budget for [THE London Kono CONFERENCE 2016]

### > Expenses

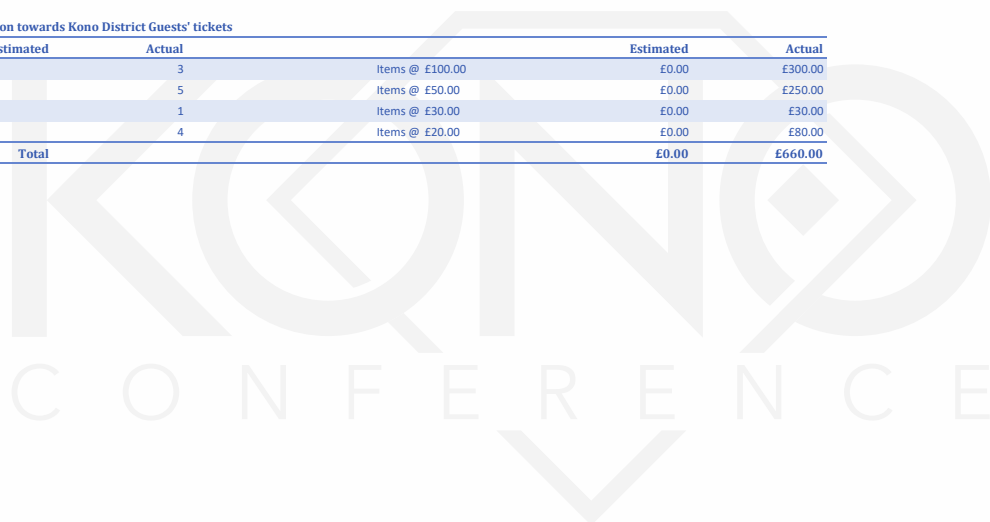
		Estimated	Actual
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>£3,240.00</b>	<b>£4,585.05</b>
<b>Site</b>	Estimated	Actual	
Room and Conference hall fees	£2,000.00	£0.00	
Banners: pop up banners x 2	£300.00	£240.00	
Outdoor Banners x 2	£0.00	£240.00	
Kono Conference logo	£0.00	£150.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,300.00</b>	<b>£630.00</b>	
<b>Decorations</b>	Estimated	Actual	
Conference Button Badges (250)	£200.00	£160.00	
souvenirs 350 pens with conference logo		£171.29	
T-shirts @£9 x 50	£540.00	£0.00	
Music	£0.00	£0.00	
Paper supplies	£100.00	£0.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£840.00</b>	<b>£331.29</b>	
<b>Publicity</b>	Estimated	Actual	
radio and Videoe (Kono)	£100.00	£211.00	
design & printing of conference programme	£0.00	£240.00	
Postage		£50.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£100.00</b>	<b>£501.00</b>	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	Estimated	Actual	
Printing of conference T-Shirts (Vistaprint)	£0.00	£0.00	
video & camera coverage	£0.00	£550.00	
Stationaries		£163.08	
Lanyard for holding ID x100@£1.34	£0.00	£0.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£713.08</b>	
<b>Refreshments</b>	Estimated	Actual	
Food 3 course meal +tea &cofee @£8pp		£960.00	
additional food for 20 people	£0.00	£160.00	
beaverage Milk + sugars	£0.00	£0.00	
snacks & sandwicks	£0.00	£0.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£1,120.00</b>	
<b>Program</b>	Estimated	Actual	
Performers/moderator expenses	£0.00	£80.00	
Speakers/oversea Guests cash		£147.00	
airport transfer		£100.00	
air ticket from sierra leone (mayor)		£852.21	
extension of air ticket to 19th sept. 16		£110.47	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£1,289.68</b>	
<b>Accommodations</b>	Estimated	Actual	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	



## Event Budget for [THE London Kono CONFERENCE 2016]

> Income

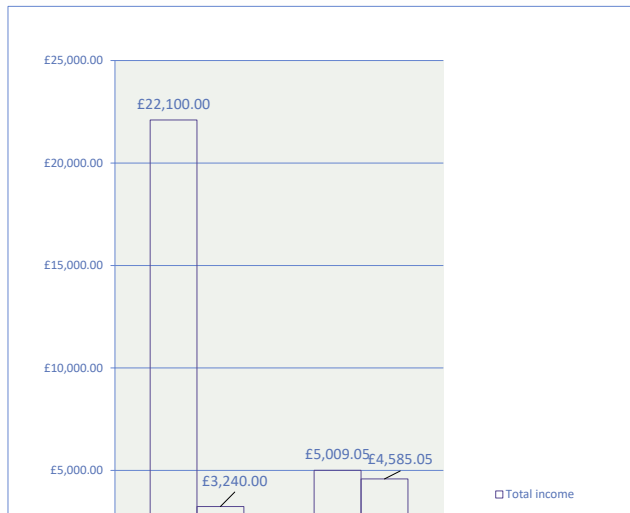
			Estimated	Actual
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>£22,100.00</b>	<b>£5,009.05</b>
<b>2014 Unity Dance pledges and Donations</b>				
Estimated	Actual	2014 UK Pledges and donations	Estimated	Actual
100	12	Adults/families @ £100.00	£10,000.00	£1,200.00
197		Children @ £0.00	£0.00	£0.00
42	2	Other @ £50.00	£2,100.00	£100.00
<b>2014 Total</b>			<b>£12,100.00</b>	<b>£1,300.00</b>
<b>2016 Family and Individual contributions</b>				
Estimated	Actual	2016 UK cash donations	Estimated	Actual
100	23	families @ £100.00	£10,000.00	£2,300.00
	1	families @ £50.00	£0.00	£50.00
	1	families @ £40.00	£0.00	£40.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>£10,000.00</b>	<b>£2,390.00</b>
<b>International Contributions</b>				
Estimated	Actual	USA donations	Estimated	Actual
0	500	Kono Unions (\$500.00)@ £0.77	£0.00	£385.00
	1	Yei Bayoh @ £174.05	£0.00	£174.05
	1.00	Mr S @ £100.00	£0.00	£100.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£659.05</b>
<b>UK contribution towards Kono District Guests' tickets</b>				
Estimated	Actual		Estimated	Actual
	3	Items @ £100.00	£0.00	£300.00
	5	Items @ £50.00	£0.00	£250.00
	1	Items @ £30.00	£0.00	£30.00
	4	Items @ £20.00	£0.00	£80.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£660.00</b>



## Event Budget for [THE London Kono CONFERENCE 2016]

> Profit - Loss Summary

	Estimated	Actual
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£22,100.00</b>	<b>£5,009.05</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>£3,240.00</b>	<b>£4,585.05</b>
<b>Total profit (or loss)</b>	<b>£18,860.00</b>	<b>£424.00</b>



KONO  
CONFERENCE





**Dr. Joseph D. Mondeh** delivered an inspiring address on the topic; **Rural Development in Kono – Inspiring case report**. Dr. J.D.Mondeh, a Consultant Psychiatrist, focus his delivery on the sustainable development goals and how these tried and tested goals can be implemented in Kono district. The goals include; 1. To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger 2. To achieve universal primary education 3. to promote gender equality and empower women 4. To reduce child mortality 5. To improve maternal health 6. To

combat HIV aids, malaria and other diseases 7. To ensure environmental sustainability 8. To develop a global partnership for development. He described the document as concrete and specific. He reminded delegates about the essence of a healthy nation and literacy in promoting development. He said Kono can truly develop if there is 70% literacy and has the capacity to feed its people. The fertile land in Kono is another untapped sector to be explored, to develop Kono district. He cited a successful farming project which he initiated in Sandor chiefdom but was affected by the rebel war in Sierra Leone. He drew attention to a major problem affecting Kono district over the years; conflict resolution. He attested that conflict arise in all human life but the skill of resolving it makes life moves on smoothly. He observed that sometimes our behaviour can be counterproductive and people must be alert to this fact. He reiterated that partnership is the way forward if Kono is to be developed. Dr. Mondeh has developed the mnemonic (SPINE) below for success in any society:

**SUCCESS = PARTICIPATION + INVOLVEMENT + NEGOTIATION AND BRINGING YOUR OWN NARRATIVE INTO IT BUT ENGAGEMENT**



**Dr. Saa Kabuta's** presentation was titled "**Reference to Posters**". Dr. Kabuta, a Marine Ecologist, started his presentation by stating the difference between a vision and missionaries. In his view, a Leader thinks of a vision and puts it on paper, explains it, for missionaries to implement. He explained that the poster presentation was a vision to provoke progressive thoughts for Kono district. He elaborated further that these presentations help to change our tacit knowledge to explicit knowledge which is positive for the future planning for kono. In his opinion, all delegates have a vision and are therefore Leaders. Dr. Kabuta displayed a moon-shaped image of a fruit market and transportation system for Kono. He also drew attention towards the apathy of the Sierra Leone government in providing the necessary security for our people and properties. He therefore suggested the implementation of toll roads for instance in repairing roads. His presentation



was complimented by Mr. Al Kasim Jalloh, the President of Kono Progressive Union (KPU) Holland. Mr. Jalloh stated his ambitious programme to include the Benelux countries for maximum impact. He stated that they have pending computer project for Kono district and urged all to put forward their thoughts to develop kono district. KPU photo display follows:

### **KPU Holland's city plan for Kono District**



**PANEL FOR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:** The panel consisted of His Woship Mayor Saa Emerson Lamina, Dr. Saa Kabuta, Mr. Al Kasim Jalloh, and Dr. Joseph D. Mondeh. The first question was from Mr. Aiah Albert Dugba who wanted to know whether Kono district as a swing electoral state in Sierra Leone could be more productive by forming a Political party. There was another question from Mr. Manius Gborie, a delegate from South Korea, who highlighted some legal matters requiring redress vis a viz environmental issue, the controversial dismissal of the Vice President of Sierra Leone Chief Alhaji Sam Sumana, and the illegal suspension of the Mayor Saa Emerson Lamina of Koidu New Sembehun City Council. There was another question from Mr. Aiah Bondowa Tondoneh, who wanted to know the successes of Dr. Mondeh's project in Sandor chiefdom and what lessons were learnt. It was suggested by panelists that a Political party based in Kono district could be useful in the development of the district. It was advised by panelists that legal matters are



best settled in the court of law. Dr. Mondeh attested that the output of his project was commendable, lasted for years and brought awareness to the indigenes.

## CONFERENCE RECESSED FOR LUNCH

The excellent catering service was provided by Evangelist Sia Mary Sumana. Our Caterer shown at work in the following picture.



The next presenter was **Susan Banya-Legg**, the Diaspora Officer for the organization of Sierra Leonean Healthcare Professionals Abroad (TOSHPA) in United Kingdom. She detailed how her organization strides in improving the lives of Sierra Leoneans. As a registered charity with limited resources in the United Kingdom, they have provided range of services including; fully participating in the fight against the Ebola virus disease, training medical volunteers to work in Sierra Leone, and assisting orphans and burial teams during the Ebola crisis. TOSHPA to partner with KDDA Uk to promote capacity building in Sierra Leone.



The next presenter was the KDDA UK youth Leader **Miss Sia Bockarie**. Her subject was titled **Hopes and Aspirations of younger Konos**. Press the link below to access the presentation:

<https://1drv.ms/f/s!As6grOKnPNJCznDGnonNJyqVrlgh>







# KDDA UK Youth Movement

Hopes and Aspirations of Younger Konos

## Where we want to be

- Average age in Kono: 19 source: 28toomany.org Country Profile: FGM in Sierra Leone, June 2014
- Average KDDA UK youth: age 20
- Few under 18s represent as members
- Parental permission required for 7 – 15 year olds in diaspora
- Don't be shy to come forward!

## Communicating with each other

- Our formal meeting styles may hinder the formation of youth groups active enough to hold Council
- Current youth blogs and video channels may not be appropriate to the target ages set out in the charity constitution
- Youth members interact through social media and at events in UK and Sierra Leone

	Present	Potential
kddayouth. Wordpress.com	Some regular readers	Move over to YouTube
Instagram.com/ kddaukyouth	Overall good though slow to uptake	Too pan-Africanist?
Surveys!	Was it pitched at the right level?	Can we modify it to apply to more under 18s?

## Social media and long term activities

- Interaction and engagement with charity membership
- They want their own logo
- Where does the rainbow go?
- Do youth want a kid friendly 'bitesize' style service accessible by children?

Fashion show	Open mic
Adventure days	Youth group bonding
Age appropriate group activities	Discipline & conflict



## Charity wide events

Summer Outing to  
Ramsgate July16

Expectations of youth  
purchase power

- Affordability
- Value
- Representation







# Sierra Leone Government initiatives

Positives to explore



## Land That We Love... 3,000 agricultural jobs planned

### **Jobs**

"We want the press to know where these ABCs would be located so that they can pass on the information to the people..."

"I thought of linking the ABCs to farmers' groups and they should become learning and knowledge centres"

source: Thomas, Abdul Rashid., Sierra Leone Agriculture Minister Rationalising Government's Farming Strategy, [www.thesierraleonetelegraph.com](http://www.thesierraleonetelegraph.com) [22072016]

### **Business**

"Young people would be encouraged to put together their business plans and once evaluated as viable, they will be given the money to start their business in agriculture with some further support and supervision from the Ministry."

"In this way, agriculture would become attractive to young people as it would help them create wealth for themselves and employment for others," the minister told local media"

## Sustainable Development Goals Fund

"Kono has the highest rate of reported rape in Sierra Leone. Violence against women is extremely common and restrictive inheritance and property laws, which discriminate on the basis of gender, make women vulnerable and dependent on husbands or male relatives."

"Support to the diversification of the local economy through the value chain approach and aquaculture ventures will focus particularly on youth and women (50% of targeted participants are female) in order to positively impact their socio-economic welfare."

Sustainable Development Goals Fund, *Enabling Sustainable Livelihoods Through Improved Natural Resource Governance and Economic Diversification in the Kono District, Sierra Leone*, 01102014

## Encouraging membership

“The Tonkolili and Kono districts office of the Restless Development Sierra Leone has certified 64 Community Peer Educators from 20 chiefdoms in Kono and Tonkolili districts after an intensive 10 months community volunteerism.”

“...because their youth has transformed into good citizens their chiefdom has established chiefdom youth committee representative in the chiefdom council, students union that caters for the welfare of students in the chiefdom. He revealed that because of those structures in the chiefdom their Paramount chief and other stakeholder has awarded scholarships to 99 students.”

source: Kabba, Mohamed <http://awoko.org> *Restless Development Certifies 64 Peer Educators*, 10092015 <http://awoko.org/2015/09/10/sierra-leone-news-restless-development-certifies-64-peer-educators/>

## Encouraging outreach

“...1,000 young people from 49 villages have come together with a view to using 450 hectares of wetland for rice production.”

“780 young people earned a short-term income by helping to prepare the wetlands for rice cultivation. So far, the young people have farmed 300 hectares, parts of which are capable of yielding two harvests per year.”

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Promoting Youth Employment Through Agricultural Development, 2005-2016. <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/20949.html>





# Setting a budget

Marketing  
Opportunities for learning  
Creativity  
Fellowship



## Child and community friendly activities

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Cultural taster events<br/>* food * drink * textiles * crafts</li><li>2. Cookery classes to teach awareness of available produce and techniques</li><li>3. Wellness and leadership training – inwards and outwards</li><li>4. Produce regional varieties popular in Kono</li></ol> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This will generate income for the Youth Council to grow with</li><li>• Enable us to gain direct investment into talent</li><li>• Create a practical model for planning purposes</li><li>• We need: technical studio setup</li><li>• We need: mentors and buddies</li></ul> |
|---|--|



Youth blog [www.kddaukyouth.wordpress.com](http://www.kddaukyouth.wordpress.com)

Instagram [www.instagram.com/kddaukyouth](http://www.instagram.com/kddaukyouth)

Google+ **KDDAUK Youth Movement**

Email [kddaukyouth@gmail.com](mailto:kddaukyouth@gmail.com)

# KONO

C O N F E R E N C E





by Chief T.S. Mbriwa in the geopolitics of Sierra Leone was discussed.

The next presenter was **Mr. Aiah Martin Mondeh** on the subject **Achievements & Contributions of Konos in the Development of Sierra Leone & the District**. Mr. Aiah Martin Mondeh gave an authoritative account of the traditional authority in Kono district between the 1930s and 1950s citing the influence of pan Africanism during this period. The objectives of the Sierra Leone Selective Trust organisation and their controversial 99 years lease in Sierra Leone was highlighted. The importance of the formation of the political party, DAO,



The next presenter was **Mr. Philip Bona**, a Project Director from Germany, and the subject was **Effective Charity & NGO fundraising and mission. How could Kono benefit?** Mr. Bona was grateful for the opportunity to participate in this historic event to assess the needs of the Kono people. He stated that after 50 years of independence it was sad to say there is abject poverty and impoverishment among our people. He also stated that the blame culture is endemic in Sierra Leone. He was optimistic of the solution to our problems which in his words require self-reflection. He opined that with our knowledge of the Millennium goals and poverty reduction strategy plans, the pathway is achievable. He urged conference to step up as partners and not beggars as the way forward. He stressed that this can be done by setting up project proposals for donors as partners with comprehensive action plans. This will not only restore the moral of our people but lead to wealth creation for our nation. He reiterated that the blame culture is not helpful and that we should be proactive. He suggested two key areas that could be worthwhile; focus on twin city partnership with international cities, setting up foundation to assist the massive youth population and students. Solar energy projects with special reference to Freiburg city in Germany was another area to be explored. The primary goal of self-reliance must be our priority.

After his presentation, Mr. Philip Bona later contacted organisers with his suggestion, a copy of the full text follows.

" AN ADDENDUM TO THE SIX-POINTS RESOLUTION OF THE LONDON KONO CONFERENCE.

Fellow Kono compatriots, dear Kono conference committee members, going through the Resolution as agreed upon at the just concluded Kono conference in London, I wish to draw your attention to a very important point which in my opinion needs to be included in the resolution as an

addendum. This involves the engagement of our Kono leaders (Paramount Chiefs and political representatives alike) who are unequivocally the custodians of our district. A couple of conference speakers (including myself) emphasized the inevitability of the direct involvement of our leaders in the process of building Kono. We may want to avoid giving the outside world the impression that we are antagonizing the very Kono authorities we should be working together with. This will no doubts undermine the very genuine purpose and intent of our common course. Therefore, I propose that we revisit the resolutions in order to include and trigger off a point 7. which should read as follows:

"THE LONDON KONO CONFERENCE AND KONOS IN THE DIASPORA RECOGNIZES THE ROLE OF OUR LEADERS IN KONO IN THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ABOVE RESOLUTIONS "

Ladies and gentlemen, you may want to make amendments to this suggestion. One thing is but for sure: there is no way we can achieve our goals on the ground in Kono without the full participation of our Kono leaders - no matter what the present prevailing circumstances might be. Otherwise we risk having a dynamic Kono diaspora - but without the necessary home base and grassroots support. And our intended goal to build Kono - a mere white elephant?

A concrete example to site here is resolution point 6.:

"To promote a twinning partnership between KNSCC and cities in Europe with focus on Health and Educational issues in Koidu city".

We can only effectively forge ahead with establishing a "twin city partnership" of this nature on the condition that we are able to relate to the Kono authorities on the ground. Otherwise it is technically impossible to launch any meaningful project. This applies to most of the other resolution points. I shall be very willing to take the challenge to spearhead the implementation of point 6. - since it was a well thought through point I personally tabled to delegates at the conference during my speech.

I therefore personally appeal to the committee to revisit the compendium of resolutions and pave the way for amendment.

My thanks are due to you.

Greetings from Germany"

Am always available for any further questions.



**The outcomes of Day1 of the 1<sup>st</sup> Kono conference** was delivered by **Mr. Tamba Jibao Sorkai Lamina**, a Medical Professional in the United Kingdom. Mr. Lamina gave a thorough diagnosis of the day's activities by elaborating on the various issues raised and then summarised the possible solutions put forward in what he described as treatments. The speakers considered the following issues; the elusive dream of 'Kwedondoya' which means speaking with one voice requiring attention, the unhealthy competition among

konos due to silo mentality, political thoughts, challenges in attracting the next generation, rate of illiteracy, converting our tacit knowledge to explicit knowledge and human rights abuses. The suggested solutions were summarised as follows; organising yearly conferences to discuss issues affecting our people, sharing contacts and creating a database of skills as a resource centre, pronouncing truth where it is due, revisiting the mantra 'Kono e Kono faa', seeking partners to develop Kono, promoting education especially functional literacy and making Kono district attractive to the next generation. The speakers also acknowledged that the youth population estimated at 65% of the entire population in Kono district was a major concern, as most were seriously affected by the recent rebel war in Sierra Leone. Youth engagement is therefore relevant for the development of Kono district. Mr. Lamina concluded by stating that "even though we shy away initially that this conference could have a political angle to it, somebody drew us right there to say we cannot have discussions here without talking about politics, and in the end, we almost developed a political party". He was applauded for this comment.



*Mrs. Mafinda standing right*

The closing remarks for the day was delivered by **Mrs. Mariama Mafinda**. She thanked delegates for their presence and participation in the conference. She thanked the speakers for their interesting and knowledgeable contributions which empowered all attendees.

## DAY 2 OF THE 1<sup>st</sup> KONO CONFERENCE

The second day of the 1<sup>st</sup> Kono Conference commenced with deliberations by the four parallel sessions. These sessions topics were already formulated by the conference organisers. The presenter for each session was chosen before the conference but session membership was voluntary. Conference participants had to choose a session of their choice before the deliberation on their respective topics. The Moderator for the second day was Mr. Ade Daramy.



*Mr. Ade Daramy -Moderator for Day 2 and Pastor Gloria Bondu Kongormanyi in prayer session*

The sessions and their topics were as follows;

Parallel Session 1: Kono Unity, Cohesion & History. A more steadfast and positive kono.

Parallel Session 2: Current problems/issues. Suggested solutions.

Parallel Session 3: Kono Development and Future. Policies, Strategies and Possibilities.

Parallel Session 4: Website & Social Media development for Enlightenment & Human Rights in Kono. Tapping into unknown and underutilised resources.





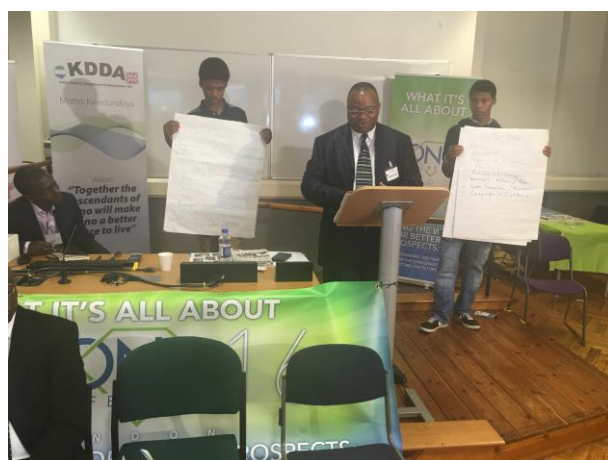
**Dr. Fuambai Sia Ahmadu** was the presenter for the **parallel session 1**, who stated that their session focussed on the cohesion and unity for a positive kono. She stressed the need for konos to take control of their destiny and discuss issues together. The presentation highlighted the need for leadership training and conflict resolution skills to reach out to our people. Activism at grass route level was also suggested. Empowering the kono people especially the women and youth, and implementation of the kono language and culture are

vital for the progress of Kono.



**Dr. Sahr M'Gbenbo Kondeh** presented the outcomes of **parallel session 2**. The team looked at both short and long-term solutions to the issues facing Kono district. The short-term solutions include writing a letter to the President of Sierra Leone and liaising with media apparatus to publicise the issues. The current issue of the Congo bridge was topical and concerns raised about the leadership surrounding the demise of this bridge. This team suggested that a letter be sent to the President demanding the reinstatement of the Mayor of Koidu New Sembehun City Council. This was because the Mayor was controversially suspended from office. They also urged all konos to make meaningful contribution to the development of Kono district and to desist from silo mentality tendencies which are unhelpful to our developmental goals.

*Dr. Sahr M'Gbenbo Kondeh on the podium*



**Dr. Saa Kabuta** presented the outcomes of the **parallel session 3**. He stated that policies and strategies were discussed but did not discussed implementation. He ascertained that policies discussed were either available as international or local policies. Policies for various sectors were discussed. These included Education, Technology, Public Health, Law and Order, Mining, Environment, Housing, Local Government, Human Resources and Tourism. The key strategy was to encourage people in kono to be fully engaged to implement strategies. Education and trainings required to build up the human resources. It



was suggested to have a technology centre to serve the communities. The team suggested a contribution of \$100.00 as initial capital to assist with costs.

*A Parallel session at work*



**Mr. Sahr Otto Fasuluku** presented the outcomes from **parallel session 4**. He listed the following media apparatus available for use; websites, podcasts, Twitter, Facebook, text messages, SMS, WhatsApp, Instagram, blogs, vlogs, You tube, linked in, emails and listservs. These tools have range of functions and the team explored all available options suited for the need of our people in Kono. They are all communication tools providing content, publicity, quick and cost-effective communication, varying storage facilities,



*Parallel session in action*

education, and resource centres. These tools can be used for campaign actions which can yield positive result at the earliest opportunities. Their limitations are mainly storage challenges which varies depending on the specific tool. They are all essential in modern communication.





**Dr. Aminata Sesay**, an education consultant, gave a presentation on **Education from the Vision of Effective Engagement**. She gave a challenging background of her educational journey and pronounced that whatever we do in life, planning was essential to achieve success. She opined that the first task in tackling the current problems with the Sierra Leone and especially Kono educational system was to conduct a robust situation analysis. This process will involve the collection and analysis of data thereby identifying the core problems, and factors inhibiting change. Dr. Sesay stated that with limited resources, it was sensible to ensure that resources available are best spent on core issues identified. She said solutions including teacher and staff training after conducting these researches will be effective. She suggested that professional tourism, where experts can use their services while on vacation will be meaningful. She also suggested engagement with parents will be productive.

The next presenter was **Dr. Fuambai Sia Ahmadu** on behalf of Mr. Sahr Pombo on the topic **Kono Foundation a Kono promise**. Details to be accessed via the Kono Conference website.



One of the highlights of the Kono Conference 2016 was an address by the Kono District Global Organization (KDGO) Chairman, **Mr. Aiah Fanday**. He titled his address **We Must Finish**. The presentation follows and accessible via the Kono Conference website.

**GREETINGS:** Distinguished Guests, Chapter Presidents, fellow Kono District Global Organization (KDGO) Members, my Kono Brothers and Sisters. "Weh Tay"

I am honored and it is a privilege to share this moment of history with you my Kono brothers and sisters and our stakeholders today. Today is a turning point in the history of our people, who are looking up to us to provide strong leadership with one singular voice.

There has never been a more pressing moment in the struggle of the Kono people, where an urgent clarion call for unity is more demanding than this hour. There has never been a more pressing moment as this for a people to find a voice in the wilderness of dwindling hope. The survival of the Kono people

*The Kono District Global Organization (KDGO) Chairman - Mr. Aiah Fanday, delivering his speech.*

is in jeopardy if we let this existential threat persist. Our people are in dire need of help and every day that goes by without a ray of hope spells doom for all of us and history will not judge those of us that had the opportunity to do something, but did nothing kindly. The survival of the Kono people is in peril with the political marginalization of our brothers and sisters in places of higher offices.

Yesterday, the duly elected Vice President, Sam Sumana, was unconstitutionally and undemocratically removed from office without any fanfare. The civil servants that dared to say anything or those that were regarded as associated of the VP were summarily removed from their jobs as well. The purge has been extended to our Dynamic Young Mayor Saa Emerson Lamina of Koidu Town and the beat goes on. Where does this stop? My brothers and sisters, evil will persist if good people look the other way pretending the problem will somehow go away quietly. We must finish and do not relent!!!

Let this gathering here on this occasion serve as evidence that good people are no longer willing anymore to look the other way.

Our gathering today at this conference is evidence of the shameful conditions of what has happened to the sons and daughters of Kono. A people with a rich tradition of welcoming strangers the spirit of "Na Sonda Chendeh", has been mistaken for a weakness and has led successive governments of Sierra Leone and their cronies as well as exploitation minded companies to rape and abuse the people of kono at will. Kono has provided the nation the riches of Diamond and gold for economic prosperity.

Today, our birth place is merely being reduced to a dumping ground with mountains of dirt in the search for diamonds, while our numerous unemployed youths have been transformed into thugs and characterized as violent offenders.

Today Koidu Town, the largest metropolitan town, and district headquarters of Kono has been reduced to rubble. The bridges and other monuments have been wiped out by aggressive and environmentally destructive companies, like Kono Holdings and OCTEA. The social injustice that has been meted on our people needs to stop, and we must do everything in our power to ensure full restitution for our people.

As we see our homeland being plundered by people who care less about our future, we as a people still believe in the partnership of working together on a collective conscience of unity and development, as Kono will definitely rise again.

Organizations like Kono District Global Organization (KDGO) of which I am the current Chairman, are becoming relevant in championing the true causes of the Kono people. We are building the foundation of a prosperous future for our struggling future generations in Kono land. KDGO has embarked on education. We are currently running a fully developed Primary School called Kono District Global Organization Primary School in Titambaya Township, in Gbense Chiefdom, Kono District. Currently we have 130 students at KDGO Primary School and they are from five villages in the Bayakor section. Villages include Titambaya, Kaikudu, Gbandakadu, Kombaya and Komeneja. (SHOW PICTURES OF SCHOOL AND SCHOOL CHILDREN).



When I was President of Kono Union USA, we provided scholarships to kono students at FBC; we are extending such philanthropic missions to our brothers and sisters at Njala University and other teachers colleges.

Supporting a generation of educated people is a cornerstone to building great minds that will advance both our local and national interests.

As a founding Member of Kono Foundation, like KDGO, we donated \$3,000 through the Mayor's Office for Ebola survivals and their families. Such funds provided a support service from emergency needs to other social needs that helped with transition from the Ebola Episode to better lives.

As the current Vice President of Friends of Sierra Leone, a non-profit Former Peace Corps Group, through our Small Grants Donations, we have expanded new opportunities of developing projects to help Kono District either through targeted projects or small projects that achieve a short-term goal.

In the area of social justice, the Kono Diaspora are coordinating with human rights groups and increasing the pressure on government to secure the immediate release of our imprisoned brothers and sisters who are detained only for political reasons. Their release is but imminent as we continue to advocate for their freedom.

We will continue the fight to get our Mayor reinstated into office, put the pressure lid on OCTEA to stop the environmental destruction of our land, pay back all taxes owed and respect their corporate social responsibilities.

Let me conclude by saying that the Kono people are resilient to adversity and have always risen up to the occasion. We will turn back the pages of history and reinstate our mayor. We will bring the VP back to the mountain of political glory and the reinstallation of all those that have been removed from their jobs by virtue of their ethnicity. OCTEA will go back to their offshore territories and kono land will be free from destruction and exploitation. We will free our political prisoners and bring them home.

From rocks to knives, we will transform the minds of our youths to be peaceful citizens as Kono have always been and teach them the choice of responsibility and common love over violence and lawlessness.

This is the vision that we need to enshrine in the hearts of our people and all subsequent generations. This is the mantle that organizations like KDGO, KDDA UK, Kono Union USA, Kono Progressive Unions in the USA and other Kono Organizations in the diaspora need to uphold and foster. Let us do it together Brothers and Sisters. We must not relent, but must keep the hope alive for posterity. WE MUST FINISH!!!

Thank you.

Kono ay kono faa



*Mr. Bashiru Vandi (Second from right) with some members of the Blue Movement.*

The next presenter was Mr. **Bashiru Vandi**, the founder and Leader of the Blue Movement. Mr. Vandi's speech was titled **Working towards greater Business, Employment & Financial Growth in Sierra Leone & in Kono – Possible Model(s)**.

He started his presentation by focusing on the trend of Sierra Leone's economy since independence.

Mr. Vandi opted to link his speech to the theme of the conference: \*understanding the past, facing current challenges and setting the future. \*

He explained that a cogent analysis of the dynamics of our economic history easily proves that we have not understood the past and therefore are failing to competently and productively deal with today's or future challenges. He pointed out that in the first decade of independence (60's), we were reliant on natural resources & foreign aid, economic growth was vulnerable to upwardly mobile inflation and the economy was thus unsustainable. These characteristics got worse in the \*70's\* when the closure of marampa mines compounded our economic, unemployment and inflationary woes and heightened the need for foreign aid. He opined that the \*80's\* ushered in no respite in the monofocal & colonial mentality of the Sierra Leone economy. Dependence on sale of natural resources and indulgence in public sector profligacy, hammered the economy with hyperinflation & stagflation. Then came the \*War Economy\* of the \*90's\*; \* a disastrous and debilitating combination of chaos, fighting, instability, little economic activity, extreme hardship and deepening economic paralysis! He stated that the post-war economy (i.e.2000-2007) saw the introduction of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP)'s Poverty Reduction Strategy, which despite the superfluous and unprecedented levels of accrued foreign Aid for national prosperity, culminated in the ignoble ejection of the corruption-ridden SLPP from power. SLPP'S legacy was dilapidated public services, soaring unemployment, sickening poverty and endless tales of scandalous corruption. Following this, the current All Peoples Party (APC)'s Agenda for prosperity forcefully reignited the notoriously excessive borrow and spend mentality, hyper-inflation, soaring unemployment, heavy reliance on natural resources and foreign aid. Systemic CORRUPTION has again reared its ugly head!

Consequently, it's a GLARING FACT that hyperinflation, high unemployment, dependence on foreign aid/ natural resources, easy vulnerability to global economic turbulence inherent CORRUPTION and UNPRODUCTIVITY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE PERMANENT

DEFICIENCIES AND PLAGUES OF OUR SORRY ECONOMIC SYSTEM THAT HAS KEPT US STATICALLY IMPOVERISHED, UNDERDEVELOPED AND POOR.

Mr. Bashiru Vandi concluded by stating “IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT OUR ECONOMY HAS WOEFULLY FAILED TO UNDERSTAND THE PAST, MEET TODAY'S CHALLENGES AND SET THE FUTURE”.

**Mr. Aiah Yornie Sodengbe** gave a short presentation on the topic **Institutions, which are required in Kono.**



He described institutions as means of controlling us and our activities in our communities. He drew attention to the ineffective institutions which could be improved and bring progress to Kono district. He highlighted the apathy of the Sierra Leone government in maintaining strong institutions to the resultant plight of the Kono people. He proposed various solutions that could improve the major sectors in Kono district ranging from Business, Health sector, Education, Non-governmental organisations, Transportation and Law and Order.

Considering the Business sector, Mr. Sodengbe proposed that a centre be created where businesses and their operations are listed. This will make life easy for those searching for specific businesses and ensure transparency.

**Health Sector:** There is a need to know how many health centres are operational in Kono district and to have volunteers monitoring their effectiveness in serving our communities.

**Education:** Mr. Sodengbe elaborated on the need to know how many schools were operational in Kono district. He stated that having a resource centre will make it possible for this information to be available to the public. He suggested that the needs of each school be publicized and could lead to volunteers willing to help. He suggested the use of a website to facilitate communication.

**Non-governmental organisations (NGOs):** He estimated the number of NGOs in Kono district to be over fifty and could not provide the specific figure as information on these organisations were rare. He stressed that people need to know the various organisations and the objectives in the district.

**Transportation:** He highlighted the safety issues with the most common transportation system in Kono district – okada. These are bikes used for the transportation of goods and services. He cited few cases where these bikes are used without helmet which is a major health risk. These risks could be alleviated by our concerted effort in providing helmets and promoting safety awareness among our people.

**Law and Order:** Issues pertaining to the welfare of detainees was raised. In the absence of an effective monitoring system, nobody seems to know how many people were legally detained or in illegal detention. Poor detention conditions with inadequate meals and lack of legal representation

was raised. The prolong detention and movement of detainees from Kono district to Kenema was another issue Mr. Sodengbe questioned. He suggested the formation of an independent body to randomly check on the welfare of detainees and to ensure Law and Order officials comply with laws and good practice procedures. He revealed that there was no Solicitor based in Kono district and that the nearest Solicitor is available in either Makeni or Kenema.

Mr. Sodengbe proposed the introduction of an annual award system which could motivate the various sectors in Kono district. The winners to be compensated with financial rewards and suggested \$500.00 for winners. The following categories were put forward;

1. The Best Restaurant
2. The Best School
3. The Best Taxi Driver
4. The Best Police Officer
5. The Best Principal
6. The Most Progressive Paramount Chief
7. The Most Accessible Member of Parliament

These proposals would be business friendly and lead to job creation. We will need employees to carry out the necessary tasks; checking on the various sectors and coordinating assigned duties. The award systems can only be effective with employment of staff to conduct the necessary monitoring duties.

Mr. Sodengbe concluded his speech with the following pronouncement; Planning is vital for success. Our combined effort in varying skills will definitely move Kono forward.



There was a short presentation by **Mr. Andy Whitemore** of the London Mining Network titled **Mining Strategies and Collaborative for Kono Development**. Details can be accessed via the Kono Conference website.

The London Mining Network supports countries affected by mining companies based in London of financed from London. London is the world's biggest centre for investment in the mineral industry. He gave a general overview on the following areas: 1. Review of their work and mining networks. 2. Review of relevant legal rights (particularly local rights of indigenous people), development and environmental groups. 3. Review of engagement/resistance of communities

This company plays a vital role in exposing companies. By his estimate, there are 370 million indigenous people in the world, mostly inhabitants of developing countries. Latest mining report available in the book – The New Colonialism.



There was a short contribution from the African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) by **Mr. Unisa Dizo Conteh**. Details will be accessed via the Kono Conference website.



There was a short inspiring presentation by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SCCAN, **Mrs. Evelyn Nyandemo (Aka Youth Mama)**. It was titled **A Remarkable Sickle Cell Charity**. This presentation can be accessed via the Kono Conference website.

## WHY SCCAN WAS BORN

Chairman of conference, His worship the Mayor, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

What I am going to talk about today cannot be goggled or found in any library because it is my story, a first-hand experience with sickle cell.

I am an expert by experience because what I do in the work I do, I learnt through bad experience.

My passion to set up Sickle Cell Carers Awareness Network (SCCAN) was born out of the loss of my two children Tennema and Miatta, who both died at the tender age of 5, having suffered from Sickle Cell Anaemia. They died back in my village, Jaiama Nimikor in the Kono District of Sierra Leone, due to a lack of knowledge and awareness of the disease. Unknown to me at that time that I was a carrier of the Sickle Cell trait. We had no understanding of Sickle Cell in my village.

Having lived in England with my daughter, who also suffers from Sickle Cell, I realised that there was a variety of facilities and care available for sufferers. This gave me the inspiration to set up something that would benefit other sufferers in my village where it all started. I wanted them to know that there is still hope, and to give those suffering with the disease, a chance to live life to the maximum.

I have carried this vision with me for almost 30 years. "When your children die, you do not get to bury them, they are buried in your heart; and it is difficult to let go". My husband and I decided in January 2008 to finally lay them to rest by setting up SCCAN. Our surviving daughter was thankfully able to beat all the odds in Africa considering the lack of facilities. Caring for her over the years on a daily basis, attending numerous hospital admissions and appointments, working with professionals and researching more about the disease has made us come to the realisation that it was time we put all our knowledge gained into action by educating other carers and sufferers that have no knowledge of how to deal with the problems related to Sickle Cell.

My passion for SCCAN is born out of the need to improve the lives of the less privileged in our society and prevent anymore-unnecessary deaths amongst our people.

When you have a vision, put it on paper, talk about it otherwise it dies a natural death. If we did not put our thoughts on paper, talk to people about it, we will not be where we are today. We started

this charity with the intention of helping only 5 children living with sickle cell disease but as I speak, we have on our list at least 1,693 children on our books all living in Kono. We run a clinic once a week and do outreach once a week. This is done by 5 volunteers. For the past 9 years, we have been praying for someone to help us with an equipment to start screening for the sickle cell status but that was also difficult until recently when a doctor I met on Facebook decided to come aboard to work with us. And for the first time in the history of Sierra Leone, a sickle cell screening came live! I am very humble and grateful to God and to Dr. Cheedy Jaja.

The need is great and this cannot be achieved without government, private sector and individual support. I therefore appeal that you contribute to make a difference to the lives of these patients, to make a difference in Kono and not only Kono but Sierra Leone as a whole. Only we can champion such cases if we are ready to help our people.

### **The impact of living with sickle cell for a girl-child has adverse implication such as:**

A) Consider a girl has to go through monthly menstrual that has its own pain for some of them and we all know that any form of stress can trigger sickle cell crisis pain and every time pain occurs it affects their main organs like Kidney, liver, pancreas and heart. And most girls don't go through the normal cycle...their cycle is very short due to being anaemic due to their condition. We work with them and their parents to understand how their children's body react to even nature. We have seen mothers who put a lot of pressure on their sickle cell children because the menstrual cycle is not as normal as others so they start believing that either kids are pregnant or they are on some contraception that will destroy their reproductive organs. We have worked a lot in this area and continue to educate girls and their parents to know that their children's bodies function differently to others.

B) PHYSICAL EDUCATION: We work with their teachers to understand a sickle cell child does not have to engage in too much physical exercise as this can trigger sickle cell crisis which can be fatal.

C) Malaria is another even more serious condition that can lead to death due their low immune system and inability to fight infection.

D) Education of keeping well. How to keep hydrated and avoid stress.

### **OUR EFFORTS TO ASSIST OUR PATIENTS INCLUDE:**

- Assisting with the care and support of sickle cell patients through the availability of funds to purchase medication and provide treatment
- Help disseminate information about Sickle Cell Anaemia Disease to the schools in Kono and the surrounding towns
- Counselling sickle cell patients and their families at the SCCAN centre and the Anti-natal clinics

- Educate caregivers and families on the importance of a balanced diet and the impact of nutrition on the health of children with sickle cell disease and also of carriers of the sickle cell trait

We all know that governments don't provide everything so we need to do our bit and see to it that the government does their bit. I will give you an example, the sickle cell society that serves the entire UK population was started by four mothers who all had sickle cell children and wanted some answers to the questions about treating sickle cell.

Thanks for listening.



The **Outcomes of the Conference (Days 1 & 2)** was delivered by **Mr. Aiah Bondowa Tondoneh**. Delegates voted for USA as the venue for the next Kono Conference and the final resolutions were presented to the Conference by Mr. Tondoneh.

The **Closing Conference Remarks** was delivered by the Kono Conference Chairman 2016, **Mr. Saa David Dingiswayo Nyandemo**. The Chairman thanked all delegates, patrons and well-wishers for the success of the Conference and wished the next Conference a very successful venture.

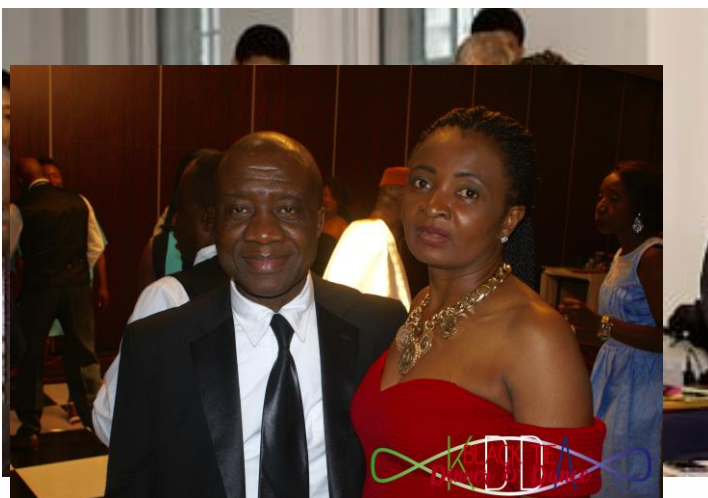
The 1<sup>st</sup> Kono Conference 2016 was finally concluded with a Dinner & Dance organised by the host; Kono District Development Association (KDDA) UK on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at the Royal National Hotel in London, UK.

This report was solely prepared by the 1<sup>st</sup> Kono conference Secretary Mr. Aiah Yornie Sodengbe and approved by the Chairman Mr. Saa David Dingiswayo Nyandemo.

**Some memorable pictures from the Kono Conference and Dinner & Dance enclosed.**





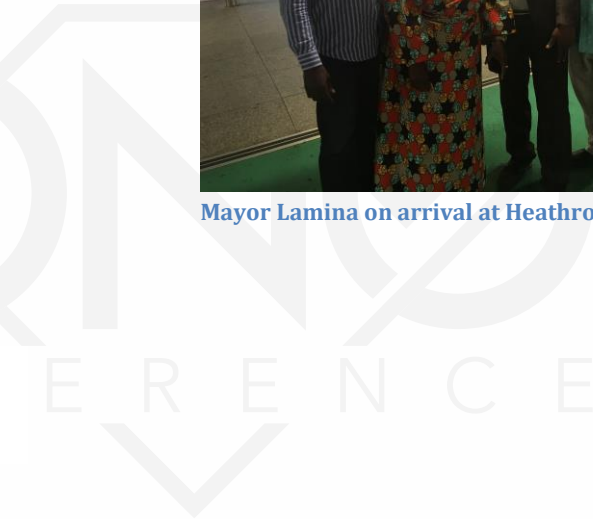




**Receiving the Mr. Darlington Brima from USA @ Heathrow Airport in London.**



**Mayor Lamina on arrival at Heathrow Airport**







KDDA UK Dinner & Dance



KPU Holland

C O N F E R E N C E



Patrons @ KDDA UK Dinner & Dance

C O N F E R E N C E

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