

# Sierra Leone Democracy Requires More Than a Leadership Change! (Concludes)

BY KORTOR FRANCIS KAMARA FROM THE USA

The concluding part of Sierra Leone democracy which Kortor Francis Kamara says requires more than a leadership change reads:



**Kortor Francis Kamara/ Advocating change**

With the new Koroma administration, there is still hope that the President might reverse course and seek to rectify some of the mistakes and hurdles encountered in the learning curve this past year. For the APC's failure to change course risks relegating it to the dustbin of unresponsive failed administrations to have dotted the Sierra Leone political landscape. The level of our societal disintegration has continued to remain pervasive to such an extent that the recent 2008 United Nations Human Development Index again ranked Sierra Leone the very last in the world; a dubious position and distinction not unknown to her peoples, as the country has over the past decades being so placed at or near the bottom consistently and with such regularity that progressive Sierra Leoneans must step up to this challenge and spear-head policies and efforts to salvage our country. The Finance Minister, Mr. David Carew's recent expression of "disappointment" over the low level of donor support or "delays in the disbursement of external budgetary support" resulting in adverse economic management and budget execution, highlights a failure of the administration's economic team in charting an economic vision, that is bold and development oriented, devoid of donor reliance, that so characterized and doomed the prior Tejan-Kabbah administration. The APC government in order to get a handle on this economic stagnation, underdevelopment and growth must start thinking bold and designing programs not in the 300 million dollar range, as is currently the case, but in the billions of dollar range. Through leveraging of the nation's marketable mineral resources, such as along lines recently proposed by Mr. Patrick Bockari's SLID proposals, our nation's perennial proposals, our nation's perennial appointments over

delays and outright non-existent pledges of external budgetary support from donors will be a phenomenon of the past. To paraphrase a common saying, performing the same tasks and expecting always a different result is tantamount to lunacy. For as a people with a strong sense of knowledge and education, this apparent dichotomy in our political leadership's penchant for resorting to the same old tried and non performing policies of dependency, despite abundant resources stems directly from the utter bankruptcy of initiatives and ideas coupled with the inordinate penchant for power so far glaringly exhibited, not only by the political leader-

ship but of greater concern to this author, the educated elite that any nation must depend on to facilitate her development. An immediate area of implementation that can help alleviate the issues of unemployment, infrastructure development and maintenance is through a coordinated public works program that will provide employment and training to youths while at the same time modernizing the nation's dilapidated infrastructure.

## CONCLUSION

The challenge thus to progressive Sierra Leoneans is to utilize and express their various expertise's in formulating models, institutions, businesses and programs of workable alterna-

tives to pull our nation from the near-perpetual last position on the human development index. It is hoped that a consensus emerges in creating new models and institutions of governance to replace the old and current models of local government administration, reform of the institution of chieftaincy, health care delivery and financing, taxation, job creation, public works programs, management and leveraging of mineral resources towards economic development, a proactive and functional privatization program and a robust public-private partnership arrangements for management of the nation's unproductive parastatals. For if we as a society

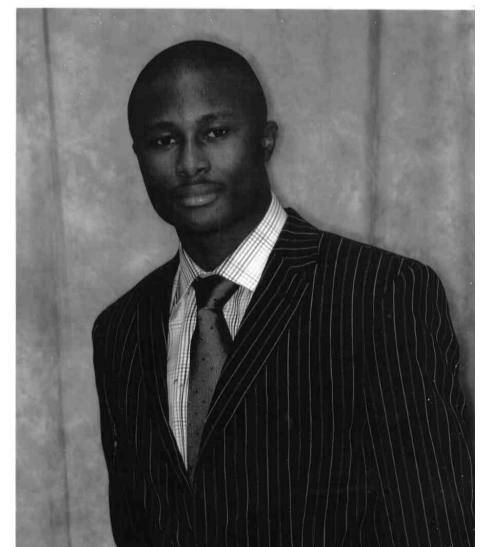
were to pause and objectively reflect upon the stewardship of our leaders and their policies since independence in 1961, we will find and conclude that despite the several leadership changes, Sierra Leone has woefully failed in the pursuit of sustained socio-economic and political development deemed essential and necessary for the betterment of her peoples. Rather the country continues to plunge into the abyss and bottomless perdition of poverty and underdevelopment hitherto unknown in any society of such economic abundance and developmental potential. Finally, we must realize that the intractable significant problems facing our nation

cannot be resolved at the same level of thinking and perception as we were when they were either created by our forefathers or by ourselves. I have always believed that the change of leadership syndrome and its resultant negativity towards effective participation in our country's economic and socio-political processes remains the single inhibiting factor to our democracy and nation's development. The nation's experience must make it abundantly clear that by just engaging in a change of leadership syndrome, without addressing the essential underpinnings of societal reformation, risks bring about no significant change to the now discredited status quo.

## Young Sierra Leonean businessman set to become a role model

A young Sierra Leonean businessman, Junisa Marah of Global Crest fame in London is on course to become one of Sierra Leone's youngest role models in the field of commerce, this paper can reveal. Junisa is head of Global Crest, a communications and money transfer business enterprise in London. Arriving in the UK at a very young age with his parents he completed both primary and secondary education and now holds a honours degree in Business Management

and Human Resources. Speaking to THE GLOBE Junisa said: "managing Global Crest which is a family business has not been easy. However, I always remain positive and believe that continual innovation and further development, whilst moving forward, is the key to success". As a young black man living in a deprived area of London Junisa could be type-cast with all the stereotypical negativity that is so easily placed on the shoulders of young black men. He added.



**Junisa Marah/ A role model for local young black youths**