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**NOTEWORTHY**  
**RK7**  
FOUNDATION

# THE UNIFIER MAGAZINE

PEOPLE • ISSUES • IDEAS



## A NATION AT CROSSROADS

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Plus

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Photo by the office of the president: State House

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WELCOME TO THE

**THE UNIFIER MAGAZINE**

# ISSUE 3



Dear Readers,

As we journey through the pages of our third issue, we confront a pivotal theme that resonates deeply with Sierra Leone's current narrative – "A Nation at Crossroads: Divisions, Cost, Impact, and the Way to Unity." In the following pages, we delve into the multifaceted dynamics shaping Sierra Leone's path, exploring the costs of political divisions, their impact on our nation's identity, and the collective endeavour towards fostering genuine unity.

This cover story unravels the layers of challenges and opportunities that lie before us as a nation. It's an exploration of not just the divisions that may fragment us but also an introspection into the potential for unity to serve as the cornerstone of Sierra Leone's progress.

### ***New Sections: Inbox and Commentary***

We are excited to introduce two new sections in this issue that enhance our engagement with you, our valued readers.

### **1. INBOX - Your Space for Comments and Feedback:**

We believe in the power of your voice shaping the narrative. The "Inbox" section is your dedicated space for comments, thoughts, and feedback. Share your perspectives, reflections, or suggestions with us by emailing [info@unifiermagazine.com](mailto:info@unifiermagazine.com). Let your voices resonate within the Unifier community, contributing to the collective

dialogue that defines our campaign for a united Sierra Leone.

### **2. COMMENTARY - The Platform for Thought Leadership:**

Are you passionate about a specific topic? Do you have insights or analyses that you believe deserve a wider audience? Our new "Commentary" section is an open call for writers to send in their commentaries. Share your expertise, reflections, or thought-provoking perspectives. Together, let's enrich the discourse and expand the horizons of Unifier Magazine.

As always, your engagement is at the heart of what we do. We invite you to immerse yourself in the diverse narratives, thoughtful analyses, and inspiring stories that await you in this issue. Let's navigate the crossroads of our nation together, embracing the challenges and opportunities that define our collective journey.

Thank you for being part of the Unifier community.

Warm regards,

Editor

*Albert Mackoty*



# INBOX



Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for the enlightening and comprehensive article recently published in The Unifier Magazine, titled "The Good. The Bad. The Ugly - The Year It Was."

The article offers a remarkable retrospective of the events that unfolded over the past year, providing readers with a nuanced understanding of the challenges and triumphs Sierra Leone experienced. The title itself encapsulates the diversity of experiences that characterized the year, and the content lived up to the promise.

The piece skillfully navigates through the highs and lows, presenting a balanced and insightful analysis of the various facets of the year gone by. The inclusion of both positive developments and challenges faced by the nation reflects a commitment to truthfulness and objectivity, qualities that are invaluable in journalism.

In a media landscape often saturated with sensationalism, it is refreshing to find a publication that prioritizes informative and well-balanced content. The Unifier Magazine continues to uphold its commitment to high-quality journalism, and this article is a testament to that commitment.

As a dedicated reader, I look forward to more thought-provoking and insightful articles from The Unifier Magazine. Your dedication to providing a platform for meaningful discussions and reflections on the state of Sierra Leone is commendable.

Thank you for your efforts in delivering quality content that informs and engages your readership.

*Amara Kamara*

Dear Editor,

I hope this letter finds you well. Thanks for the insightful and timely article published in The Unifier Magazine, titled "Dr. Richard Konteh's National Call for Peace and Unity in Sierra Leone."

The article brilliantly captures the essence of Dr. Richard Konteh's vision for a united and harmonious Sierra Leone. In a time when the nation faces various challenges, his call for peace and unity serves as a beacon of hope and a reminder of the values that can truly propel our country forward.

The piece beautifully highlights Dr. Konteh's commitment to fostering inclusivity and understanding among Sierra Leoneans. His role as a unifying figure is portrayed with depth and clarity, showcasing not only his aspirations but also the tangible steps he has taken to promote a sense of togetherness.

The article succeeds in conveying the urgency of Dr. Konteh's message, emphasizing the importance of unity not only for the sake of political stability but for the well-being of every Sierra Leonean. The inclusion of his initiatives and endeavours further illustrates his dedication to creating a more cohesive and prosperous nation.

I commend The Unifier Magazine for shedding light on such a pivotal topic and for providing a platform to amplify voices that advocate for positive change.

As a reader, I look forward to more articles that explore the transformative efforts of individuals like Dr. Richard Konteh, who play a crucial role in shaping the narrative of our beloved nation.

Once again, thank you for the thought-provoking and inspiring article. Keep up the excellent work!

*Victor Samba-Alie*

A true masterpiece across few pages of script. A spellbinding work of art by an erudite editor.

A retrospective introspection into where we have been as a nation and whither we are headed. An incisive dissection of the peaks and troughs of our political economy and how dark forces have conspired to negatively impact livelihoods in a gravely depressed and corrupt society.

The lethal concoction of a fragile state, amidst ethnocentric and political tensions, and unbridled corruption creates a lethal cocktail for conflict, unrest and retrogression.

But we remain hopeful for 2024 as a new dawn breaks to renewed realities and opportunities if we all put our wheels to the sticking place - and we'll not fail.

I dove my hat to you Mr Editor.

*Dr. William Konteh*

Dear Editor,

Just to express my appreciation for the insightful article, "More Airport Charges: Tourism on Death Row," recently published in The Unifier Magazine. The piece shed light on critical issues affecting the tourism sector, and I commend your team for addressing such pertinent topics. Keep up the excellent work.

Best regards,

*Martha B.*

***Thank You for your emails and feedback.***



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# DR. RICHARD KONTEH'S PERSPECTIVES ON THE FUTURE OF APC PARTY

By The Unifier Magazine

In the ever-evolving landscape of Sierra Leonean politics, the All Peoples Congress (APC) party stands as a towering presence, its past triumphs and recent trials etched in the nation's memory. To navigate the party's path forward, The Unifier Magazine sat down with Dr. Richard Konteh, former Minister, Chief of Staff, Flagbearer aspirant for the APC Party and political analyst, to glean his insights on the party's future.

## From Grassroots to Flag Bearer Aspirant:

Dr. Konteh's journey with the APC is deeply personal. From his early days as a youth activist to being a minister during the APC governance from 2007 to 2014, and most recently, contesting for the party's leadership, where he was voted second place, he has witnessed the party's highs and lows firsthand. This unique perspective colours his analysis, offering a blend of unwavering loyalty and objective assessment.

## Confronting the Past:

The APC's recent electoral performance casts a long shadow. Dr. Konteh readily acknowledges the shortcomings that contributed to this outcome, citing issues like internal divisions, which led to a disconnect with the electorate. "We could have done better. It was a clearly winnable election for the APC." For example, the contest for the party's leadership has been bitter, negative and polarizing since 2017.

Wannabe flagbearer contestants were busy pitching teams against other teams. They built walls segregating people from one region against people from the other areas and so much more. The effect of this divide-to-win and win-at-all-cost politics is more worrisome that the party's voter base is similarly worked up and divided. He emphasizes the need for introspection and a willingness to confront past mistakes head-on.

## Rebuilding the Foundation:



DR. RICHARD KONTEH

For the APC to rise above this current dark hole, Dr. Konteh believes the party must rebuild its foundation on the core principles of unity, inclusivity, transparency, and good governance. This requires reconnecting with the grassroots, particularly the youth, and ensuring their voices are heard and their concerns addressed. Additionally, nurturing internal unity and fostering open dialogue within the party will be crucial to healing past divisions and presenting a cohesive front to the electorate.

## Beyond Nostalgia:

Dr. Konteh cautions against a solely nostalgic view of the APC's past. While acknowledging the party's legacy, he emphasizes the need to adapt to the evolving political landscape and address the needs of contemporary Sierra Leone.

This means embracing fresh ideas, engaging new talent, and developing policies that resonate with the current generation.

### **Beyond Politics:**

The APC's future, Dr. Konteh said, is inextricably linked to the nation's overall well-being. He advocates for a more collaborative approach to politics, one that transcends partisan divides and prioritizes national development. This means working with other parties and civil society to tackle critical issues like poverty, education, and healthcare.

### **A Beacon of Hope:**

Dr. Konteh's message is one of cautious optimism. He believes the APC has the potential to overcome its current internal challenges and rise again, stronger and more relevant than ever before.

However, this will require a collective effort, a commitment to self-reflection, adaptation, and a renewed dedication to serving the people of Sierra Leone.

### **The broader political landscape in Sierra Leone and its impact on the APC party's future:**

The broader political landscape in Sierra Leone is shaped by a

dynamic interplay of various factors, including political, social, and economic dynamics. All these have a profound impact on the APC Party's future:

### **Elections and Electoral Processes:**

The outcomes of elections and the electoral processes have a direct impact on the political landscape. Shifts in public sentiment, voter preferences, and the conduct of elections can significantly influence the APC's political standing.

### **The Role As Opposition:**

The APC should focus on leveraging its current role as the main opposition party to provide value to the people and shape its influence and ability to implement its agenda. The party's performance in this role affects its popularity and prospects in subsequent elections.

### **Policy Positions and Governance:**

The APC's policy positions and governance strategies play a crucial role in shaping public perception. Effective governance, implementation of policies, and responsiveness to the needs of the population contribute to the party's credibility.

### **Social Dynamics:**

Social issues, including those related to identity, ethnicity, and regionalism, are influencing our political dynamics. The APC's ability to navigate and address social complexities will contribute to its political resilience.

### **Unifier Magazine's Note:**

Dr. Konteh's insightful perspective demonstrates that the APC's future is not preordained. It is a story yet to be written, one that hinges on the party's ability to learn from its past, embrace change, and reconnect with the people it aims to serve. Only time will tell if the APC can navigate the challenging currents ahead and secure its place as a vital force shaping the future of Sierra Leone.

Every Saturday night, Dr. Konteh shares his views and insights on the Unifier Radio and TV's The Unifier Hour Show. The show airs across various social media channels include YouTube, Facebook, X and LinkedIn. The online radio can also be accessed on The Unifier website [www.dunifier.com](http://www.dunifier.com).







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# DEAR FRIENDS ACROSS THE POLITICAL DIVIDE



Sierra Leone is a nation of rules, believe it or not. Rules define Sierra Leonean politics and government. Our democracy is an empty abstraction: It does not really exist. Instead, we have rules and procedures for choosing those who govern us and for holding them accountable. The rules are not immutable; they evolve slowly and with care. This feels boring and uninspiring. Yes, it was designed to be that way, and it is precisely what makes our country functional. If you want excitement, you will get a dictator—one who will give us political overstimulation and decades of tyranny.

Yes, we are a nation of rules, and the rules are boring. Embrace that. In times of difficulty, go with the boring option. When faced with a frightening crisis, tamp it down with ultra-boring moves. No matter what, let us stick with the rules.

We can not avoid talking about the outcome of the 2023 elections, but we will mention it briefly here. Most Sierra Leoneans don't like how it unravelled.

This is about you, you the die-heart, faithful APC or SLPP supporter. When you demonize those who disagree with you, you invite treatment in kind.

When you refuse to engage in political argument and resort to performative moralizing, you make it clear to any neutral observer that for you, there is only one side, one opinion, one conformist crowd that can ever govern legitimately. The rest are disgusting subhumans who should never be tolerated near the levers of power. When you trample on the rules that say "all are created equal" like that, you are destroying the fabric that holds the country together. And believe it or not, you will reap the whirlwind.

Free speech is a rule among us. It is closely bound to the search for truth. When you justify state censorship, you pitch your camp

in the kingdom of lies. And believe it: The chaos you impose from above will erupt with a million times the force and consume you from below.

Sierra Leonean laws and rules exist to maintain order. These laws and regulations are not for settling our political disputes. That is the rule. When you criminalize dissent and equate nonconformity with progress haters, tribalism, or terrorism, you have lost the thread of how this country works. When you threaten to lock up opponents so they can be converted into loyal followers, you channel the regime of dictatorship. When you viciously try to eliminate members of the opposition, you practice the same style of mafia politics as all dictators do. When you stop opponents from freely campaigning or you ban a candidate's name from the ballot to preserve "our democracy," you sound, frankly, like you have gone nuts. And believe it or not, it will come back to haunt you.

We may disagree, but please don't dismiss the other person as a moral abomination. Don't curse them or swear them. Don't prosecute them for their political views. Let them be!

Disagreement is information—it is a favour you do to the other

person by calling out the potential gaps and the mistakes in their opinions. When we are in the excitement of the moment, especially during election times, it feels like an enormous gulf separates us. But that is only true if you want it to be: Distance is always a matter of perspective. And you know perfectly well that in your family and among your friends, there are individuals who disagree with you politically—people just like you, except for this one little thing called politics.

When we have elections, the two big parties nominate their candidates. A few outsiders may find their way into the ballot. We, the people (Sierra Leoneans), as we have always done since independence, we choose among these candidates. The results should be counted center by center and sent to the Electoral Commission (ECSL). ECSL should collate and report those results accurately. Those are the rules. If you mess with them, there will be chaos. If your side wins, be boring about it—no censorship, demonization, or show trials. People will love you for it. If your side loses, look in the mirror and ask yourself why. Any other thing is an insult to "we the people," for whom you must retain some vestige of affection and respect.

Whatever the outcome of an election, we will have to live together. Anything else will be self-destructive. Be boring instead. Look for common ground in politics. If there is none, then look to our common humanity. Our differences of opinion may seem profound, but all of us want what is best for our families, the neighbourhoods we live in and the country we love. We can raise our voices in anger, but there should be no malice in this debate—win or lose.

The Unifier Magazine is only a voice crying out from inside a noisy media ghetto, but we hope that you can hear what we are saying and that we can find a way to talk. We wish we could push aside the worst among us and bring the best forward to be the living heart of this crazy, pluralistic society. We wish we could open your eyes and let you see yourself the way people see you. For all our sakes, we wish we could persuade you that the rules are the rules and to break them is suicide. And do not take it the wrong way, friends, but please help so that all of us enjoy this one country we call Sierra Leone. Let us live in unity! Because, We All Nar Wan!



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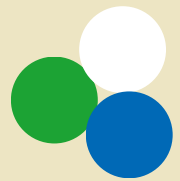
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# ELECTIONS SPECIAL

## NEW ANALYSIS UNVEILED

### YOUR TAKE, YOUR OPINION



*Elections 2023: Commonwealth Observer Group in Sierra Leone  
Photo by Commonwealth Secretariat*

*DISCLAIMER: This article contains information obtained from an anonymous source. We cannot guarantee its accuracy or completeness due to the inherent limitations of relying on anonymous sources. We urge readers to consider this information cautiously and consult other sources for corroboration.*

Sierra Leone's recent elections in June 2023 have captured

domestic and international attention. While the official results have been declared, concerns linger about potential irregularities, particularly surrounding the lack of transparency in the tabulation process.

In a Three-Part **Elections Special Series**, we will unveil a set of statistical data and analysis from

an anonymous source, and we will let you make your interpretation of the 2023 election result.

#### **Part 1: Regional and Stronghold Analysis**

An anonymous source presentation has delved into some analysis of election results from 2007 to 2023, with a particular focus on the recently concluded 2023 elections.

They claimed the presentation aims to shed light on potential systemic issues and contribute to a more informed understanding of Sierra Leone's electoral landscape by uncovering trends and patterns across these elections.

They also claim the objective of this presentation goes beyond simply addressing the secrecy surrounding the 2023 tabulation process and seeks to uncover

any broader patterns of irregularities that may have influenced past and present election outcomes.

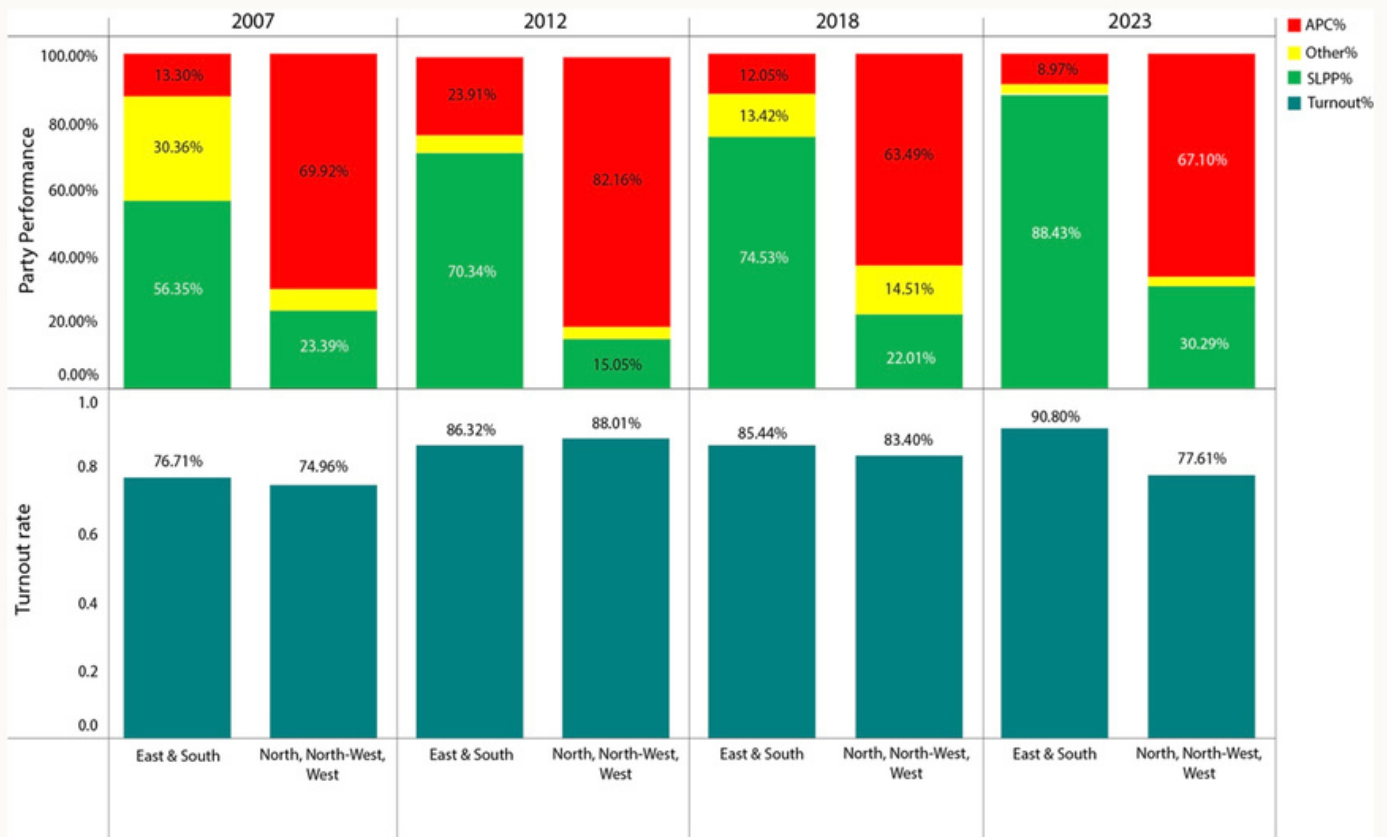
Through this analysis, they hope the material will contribute to strengthening Sierra Leone's democratic institutions and ensuring the integrity of future elections.

This analysis examines voting data from Sierra Leone's

elections between 2007 and 2023, focusing on the 2023 results compared to historical trends. As you look at this data, consider the following questions:

1. Where do you see major deviations from historical voting patterns in the 2023 elections?
2. If there are deviations, do they raise concerns about potential irregularities?

## REGIONAL & STRONGHOLDS ANALYSIS



Source Data: ECSL announced results; previous elections data

## THE POLITICAL PARTIES PERFORMANCE BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND BATCHES OF RESULTS

District	60% Processed Polling Stations						40% Processed Polling Stations						Comments
	Polling Stations	Valid Votes	60% Voters	APC Rate	SLPP Rate	Other Rate	Polling Stations	Valid Votes	40% Voters	APC Rate	SLPP Rate	Other Rate	
Kailahun	407	153,668	126,638	3.40%	94.94%	1.67%	272	30,825	65,695	11.75%	86.26%	1.99%	Somehow Normal
Kenema	676	208,200	208,661	5.26%	93.89%	0.85%	451	94,230	109,645	10.70%	85.63%	3.67%	Normal
Kono	370	47,061	95,714	29.14%	62.53%	8.34%	246	78,051	78,322	24.97%	65.08%	9.95%	Normal
Bombali	433	147,041	134,291	91.38%	6.58%	2.04%	288	11,221	72,089	89.01%	8.15%	2.83%	Normal
Falaba	150	28,987	36,513	42.76%	50.88%	6.36%	100	26,305	32,657	9.67%	88.64%	1.69%	Abnormal
Koinadugu	185	36,038	45,918	64.30%	30.96%	4.74%	124	18,772	39,291	61.30%	33.60%	5.10%	Normal
Tonkolili	437	75,507	115,631	80.54%	14.56%	4.89%	292	80,502	91,894	85.84%	10.66%	3.50%	Normal
Kambia	328	97,730	101,078	64.29%	30.44%	5.27%	219	12,757	51,564	13.56%	84.91%	1.53%	Abnormal
Karene	215	66,984	67,008	82.84%	13.13%	4.02%	144	6,230	33,288	94.75%	3.74%	1.51%	Somehow Normal
Port Loko	502	155,454	155,590	83.21%	12.93%	3.86%	334	17,303	81,431	55.33%	41.24%	3.44%	Abnormal
Bo	664	216,593	205,068	5.05%	93.08%	1.87%	442	73,033	112,148	16.66%	82.52%	0.82%	Somehow Normal
Bonthe	230	76,260	71,149	3.46%	95.32%	1.22%	154	26,312	36,496	0.67%	97.87%	1.46%	Normal
Moyamba	322	87,385	100,441	11.23%	85.40%	3.38%	215	46,183	49,961	21.50%	74.99%	3.50%	Somehow Normal
Pujehun	253	77,114	78,956	3.52%	94.27%	2.21%	169	29,587	36,969	0.45%	99.28%	0.27%	Normal
Western Area Rural	697	176,250	211,782	68.85%	29.16%	1.99%	464	112,136	130,088	31.95%	66.98%	1.07%	Abnormal
Western Area Urban	1,229	261,131	372,938	52.84%	45.44%	1.72%	820	214,616	225,344	71.17%	27.37%	1.46%	Abnormal
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,099</b>	<b>1,911,403</b>	<b>2,127,376</b>	<b>41.53%</b>	<b>55.86%</b>	<b>2.62%</b>	<b>4,733</b>	<b>878,053</b>	<b>1,246,882</b>	<b>40.37%</b>	<b>56.86%</b>	<b>2.76%</b>	
<b>%</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>41.53%</b>	<b>55.86%</b>	<b>2.61%</b>				<b>40.37%</b>	<b>56.86%</b>	<b>2.76%</b>	

*Source Data: ECSL announced results; previous elections data*

### Issue No. 1: Extremely higher voter turnout in SLPP stronghold than APC

#### Statistics:

Voter turnout in SLPP stronghold in the Southeast is at an average of 90%, while in APC stronghold in the Northwest voter turnout is less than 80%.

#### Comment:

This is unprecedented and unattested in previous elections (from 2007 to 2018), where average voter turnout is between 75 and 80%. Why the massive increase in turnout in only SLPP stronghold without a corresponding increase in other areas of the country? This is questionable.



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# A NATION AT CROSSROADS:

## THE DIVISIONS, THE COSTS, THE IMPACT AND THE PATH TO UNITY IN SIERRA LEONE

By The Unifier Magazine



President Bio and Former President shake hands  
Photo by State house Media



Emblazoned upon Sierra Leone's coat of arms, the proud motto "UNITY, FREEDOM, JUSTICE" stands as a beacon of aspiration for the nation. But what does this unity truly entail? Is it simply a call for peace and harmony, or does it hold a more profound meaning in the context of Sierra Leone's vibrant and complex history?

### Understanding the Past:

We must acknowledge the past to grasp the essence of unity in Sierra Leone. The nation's rich tapestry is woven from diverse ethnic groups, languages, and traditions. Colonialism and post-colonial struggles for independence left scars of division and conflict. The brutal civil war of the 1990s exposed the fragility of unity and the devastating consequences of its absence.

### Beyond Ethnicity and Identity:

The unity enshrined in the motto transcends mere ethnic harmony. It calls for a broader, more inclusive notion of national identity that respects diversity while forging a common bond. It is about looking beyond differences and recognizing the shared values, aspirations, and challenges that bind all Sierra Leoneans together.

### **Divisions Within:**

Like many nations, Sierra Leone grapples with divisions that stem from historical, ethnic, political, and socioeconomic factors. Tribal affiliations, regional disparities, and political ideologies or the lack of meaningful political ideologies have sometimes created fault lines, hindering the nation's progress toward a more unified identity.

### ***The Costs of Division:***

The costs of our petty internal divisions are not merely abstract; they manifest in tangible ways, affecting societal cohesion and progress. Economically, these self-made divisions impede development, as resources are not being allocated optimally. Socially, these divisions contribute to mistrust and hinder collaboration, stifling collective efforts toward shared goals.

### ***Impact on National Identity:***

The impact of these petty divisions on Sierra Leone's national identity is profound. A fragmented identity erodes the sense of belonging and weakens the bonds that tie citizens together. The nation's potential is hindered when a fragmented identity overshadows the shared history, culture, and aspirations that could otherwise unite its people.

### ***Political Implications:***

Political divisions, often exacerbated during electoral cycles, have led to polarization and a focus on partisan interests over national welfare. Such divisions impede formulating and implementing policies that could address the needs of all citizens, reinforcing a cycle of discontent and division, regionally and ethnically.

Recently, the relationship between President Julius Maada Bio and former President Ernest Bai Koroma has shown to be complex and fraught with tension, marked by political rivalry and accusations. I hope you know the details how we got this point by now. If not, please go back to our January publication and read the article "2023: Reflecting on the Year That Was."

The tense relationship between President Bio and former President Koroma casts a shadow over Sierra Leone's political landscape, raising national unity and reconciliation concerns.



President Bio Holds Discussion with Former President.  
Photo by Premier Media

### **Facing the Challenges:**

The pursuit of national unity remains an ongoing challenge. Poverty, corruption, and inequality will always threaten to fracture the social fabric. Ethnic and political tensions can still simmer beneath the surface.

Achieving true national unity requires constant effort, dialogue, and a commitment to inclusivity at all levels.

President Bio and his government, and us, the broader Sierra Leonean society, must take steps towards a more peaceful and united future.

Sierra Leone is a nation of rich cultural diversity, but recently we've found ourselves at a crossroads with the lingering questions: Can we truly unite? Can we truly find a common ground and work together for progress?

### **Social Cohesion and Development:**

Unity is not just an abstract ideal; it is a prerequisite for sustained social cohesion and development. A united Sierra Leone can harness the strength of its diversity, fostering an environment where every citizen, regardless of background, feels a sense of ownership and contributes to the nation's progress.



# COMMENTARY



Alpha Bah. Photo from X profile

*This post was originally published on X by Alpha Bah on January 20, 2024.*

**The level of political contestation and divide in #SierraLeone is distressing.**

Friends, families, neighbours, and colleagues, who used to regale in peace and ambience, are all enraged, waiting to outdo each other or to destroy or even kill their opponents if the chance arises.

Demonizing a whole tribe in turn for the misdeeds of a few is today a routine. Judging situations by region and tribe has become a norm. Some of us are in a difficult position with

this turn of events due to our inherent relationship with almost all of the major tribes in Sierra Leone.

Most Sierra Leoneans like myself are connected to other tribes—for me, I'm connected by blood to Themne, Mende, Krio and Fullah—demonizing any of these or other tribes is a direct attack on my family across the various tribal lines I'm connected to by blood or otherwise.

This is the same for others; why must we continue to exist like this?

We must endeavour to rid our nation of these dangerous levels of bitterness. We used to be happy people and love to live in peace. Let's get back to those days and avoid the dangers of division.

No single individual or group is responsible for this unfortunate situation; it is a matter for all of us to work on improving. The blame game won't work.

National cohesion is a must!!

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# SIERRA LEONE: BEYOND THE BEACHES

## Unveiling a Hidden Gem in West Africa

By The Unifier Magazine

Forget the Maldives, ditch Dubai – 2024 is the year to set your sights on a hidden gem, a land where vibrant culture dances with breathtaking landscapes and the rhythm of life beats to a different drum. Welcome to Sierra Leone, folks, the ultimate destination for the adventurous soul seeking an escape from the ordinary.

So, ditch the spreadsheets and pack your dancing shoes (and maybe some mosquito repellent, just in case) because Sierra Leone is ready to whisk you away on an unforgettable journey. Here's a taste of what awaits you:

### THE BEACH BUMS

**Freetown:** Dive headfirst into the pulsating energy of the capital city - Freetown, where pristine beaches like Lumley sandwiched between bustling streets offer a taste of both city and surf. Soak up the sun, dig your toes into the sand, and listen to the hypnotic beat of the djembe drums as the sun dips below the horizon.



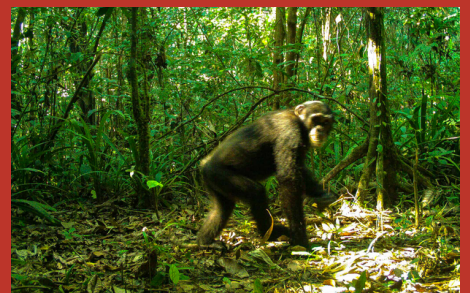
Photo by Visit Sierra Leone

**Banana Islands:** Escape the mainland for a Robinson Crusoe-esque experience on these idyllic islands. Picture swaying palm trees, turquoise waters begging for a dip, and the gentle whisper of the ocean lulling you to sleep. Just remember, your biggest worry here will be choosing between snorkelling with turtles or sipping fresh coconut juice.



### ADVENTURE JUNKIES

**Go Ape in the Gola Rainforest:** Trek through the lush canopy of this ancient rainforest, home to chimpanzees, elephants, and a symphony of exotic birds. Climb rickety bridges, swing on Tarzan vines (metaphorically, of course), and witness the raw beauty of nature that makes you feel like you've stepped back in time.





### **Climb Mount Bintumani:**

Conquer the highest peak in West Africa and earn bragging rights (and some killer Instagram pics) along the way. Trek through misty valleys, encounter friendly villagers standing on top of the world (well, at least of Sierra Leone), and soak in the panoramic views that stretch as far as the eye can see.



**Makeni Craft Market:** Get lost in a vibrant kaleidoscope of colors, textures, and smells in this bustling marketplace. Haggle for handwoven textiles, intricately carved wooden masks, and one-of-a-kind souvenirs that tell the story of Sierra Leone's rich artistic traditions.



**Catch of the Day:** From succulent barbecued fish fresh off the boat to fiery stews simmering over open flames, Sierra Leone's coastal cuisine is a feast for the senses. Find a local spot on the beach, grab a plastic chair, and prepare for an explosion of flavours that will tantalize your taste buds.



## **CULTURE CONNOISSEURS**

**Bunce Island:** Step into a living history book on this former slave trading post, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore the chilling ruins, hear the stories whispered by the stones, and learn about a complex chapter in Sierra Leone's past.



## **THE FOODIES**

**Street Food Safari:** Forget fancy Michelin-starred restaurants, the real culinary adventure awaits in the backstreets and bustling markets. Sample spicy pepper soup, savour savoury plantains, and indulge in the sweet, sticky goodness of puff-puff donuts – all while soaking up the local atmosphere.



So, there you have it, folks. Forget the cookie-cutter tourist traps, Sierra Leone is a land where adventure awaits around every corner. Come for the beaches, stay for the culture, and leave with a heart full of memories and a smile that refuses to fade. Just remember, in Sierra Leone, the only itinerary you need is the one your soul writes along the way.

Now, pack your bags, grab your sense of humor, and get ready for a 2024 travel adventure that will leave you breathless, inspired, and maybe a little bit sunburnt (but in the best way possible). Sierra Leone awaits!

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# NOTEWORTHY

## RK7 FOUNDATION: ECHOES OF A DREAM

By Albert Mackoty



### Empowering Sierra Leone's Young Generation

The dusty streets of Freetown thrummed with a rhythm that only SirRichie could hear. It wasn't the cacophony of traffic horns or the excited chatter of market vendors; it was a melody waiting to be born, a symphony of hope tucked away in his worn notebook. SirRichie, commonly known by his peers as RK7, brimming with the vibrant spirit of Sierra Leone, dreamt of more than just surviving. He dreamt of igniting a spark in young boys

and girls, nurturing their talents and giving them wings to soar beyond the limitations of their circumstances.

But fate, a cruel conductor, had other plans. Sudden death silenced the music in his heart before he could even begin the symphony. The weight of his unfulfilled dreams settled heavily on his loved ones, an unfinished melody, a score unwritten.

The RK7 Memorial Foundation, established in memory of SirRichie, embodies the transformative power of a single dream: to illuminate the lives of disadvantaged children in Sierra Leone through sports, music, and education.

More than just a memorial, RK7 is a beacon of opportunity, its vision focused on creating a brighter future for underprivileged youth. Through strategic initiatives in sports,



music, and education, the foundation empowers young people to break the cycle of poverty, cultivate self-reliance, and lead lives of dignity.

The foundation's latest endeavour exemplifies this mission in action. Joseph and Christopher Sesay, two young boys who recently lost their fathers, the sole providers for their families, faced a future clouded by hardship. In a society where women's struggles are often immense, their situation threatens to plunge them into destitution.



But the RK7 Foundation stepped in, refusing to let these boys' dreams dim. Recognizing the critical need for support, they took Joseph and Christopher under their wing, ensuring they had access to



necessities like food and education. This compassion is not merely a response to immediate hardship but an investment in their potential, nurturing their futures and offering them a pathway to a brighter tomorrow.

The RK7 Foundation's story extends far beyond Joseph and Christopher. The foundation's programs have touched countless young lives, each a testament to the transformative power of opportunity. Whether fostering artistic expression, igniting passion for sports, or providing access to quality education, RK7 Foundation empowers young people to become agents of change in their lives and communities.

As you turn the pages of the Unifier Magazine, remember the story of Joseph and Christopher and countless others like them. Remember the unwavering spirit of SirRichie, his dream to empower the next generation, and the dedication of the RK7 Foundation in making that



dream a reality. We encourage you to visit their website at <https://www.rk7foundation.org/>, learn more about their impactful work, and consider joining them or supporting them in their mission to illuminate the lives of Sierra Leone's young generation.

Together, let us honour dreams, empower potential, and write a brighter future for the children of Sierra Leone, one opportunity at a time.

### Contact RK7 Foundation

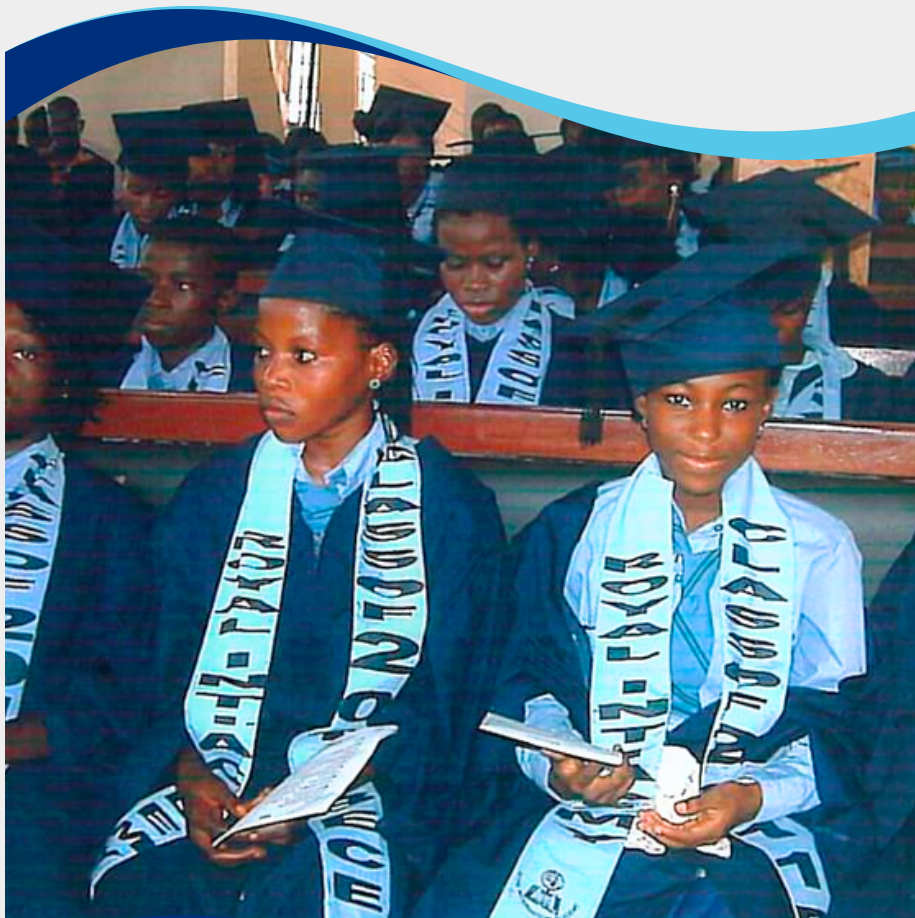
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