



# CGSL QUARTERLY YOUTH DIGEST First Edition

CHOZEN GENERATION SIERRA LEONE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

## Message From The National Coordinator

Dear Reader,

We are extremely pleased to introduce our inaugural edition of the Chozen Generation Quarterly Youth Digest, a youth magazine dedicated to promoting the culture of creative writing and reading among young people.

At the end of every quarter over the coming months we shall be compiling the very best pieces from our dedicated team and bring them right on to your smart phone and PC screens. We shall be profiling extremely amazing individuals whose stories can inspire you. Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, Entertainers, Entrepreneurs—as long as you have a story to tell we will find you and inspire the millions of young Sierra Leoneans.

August has been an unbelievably tragic month for this country. Hundreds of our compatriots died when flood waters engulfed the capital city Freetown, causing a mountain top to cave in on a small community in Regent. Once again, we have seen the resilience first hand of our people. We also witnessed the epic gallantry of our young people who wasted no time to dash to vulnerable communities to rescue those trapped and help recover the corpses of our fallen compatriots

Here at CGSL, we swiftly responded to this national tragedy by recruiting volunteers to collect details of the deceased which was then posted on a memorial page we created on our website to help relatives and friends, particularly those from overseas, to identify deceased. To date we have compiled a list of more than 100 verified deceased with their details and photographs. We continue to remember them.

Chozen Generation Sierra Leone is not oblivious of the huge challenges that young people in Sierra Leone continue to grapple with. An article in the UK Guardian Newspaper identified Sierra Leone as the most dangerous country to be a young person with 1 in every 150 persons between 15 and 29 reported to have died in 2015. A really unwelcomed news and it is a situation which we must all work to change.

That is why we support the Citizen's Manifesto's call for increased political participation of young people in the forthcoming elections. We believe that the more involved young people are in national decision-making processes, the better our chances of ensuring that our needs, voices and aspirations take center stage.



### Poetry

A young female poet pushes her creativity to the extreme as she paints a beautiful picture of the Sierra Leone of her dreams

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### Two Inspiring Young Sierra Leonean Academics

We profile two incredibly outstanding Sierra Leonean students who are doing their Ph.Ds abroad. Read their amazing stories and get inspired!

Page 5&6

# Imagining A Nation

by Adama Benya

I imagine a nation called Sierra Leone  
A land I am proud to call my own  
A beautiful nation that destroyers don't  
want to leave alone  
On a sworn oath that development is  
always postponed

Your leaders are gaining phenomenal  
popularity  
Making you a trading commodity  
I wish we could work towards prosperity  
Rather than swimming in austerity

I imagine again calling Sierra Leone the  
Athens of West Africa where people  
from all over the world including  
America would come to gain education  
But education is now purchased with  
diminishing gold and silver  
Degrading the level of people that are  
clever

Politicians behave amongst themselves  
like rotting onions  
And their opponents prowling like  
roaring lions  
With their catch phrases bombarding us  
to caution  
The politics in Sierra Leone is  
watermelon

But I imagine Sierra Leone moving  
towards the optimistic outlook of  
development

I see change unleashing in Sierra Leone  
my heart blasting with encouragement  
Citizens will be free from nagging  
desires and unnecessary torment  
We will all be proud to be called citizens  
of this great nation

I see Sierra Leone once again producing  
leaders and educationists that are  
academically baptized and orally  
confirmed  
This should be one of our greatest  
concerns

I see the inhabitants of this great plain  
Challenging epic struggles in order to  
isolate hunger and pain  
I see us celebrating the absence of  
consistent condition of marathon youth  
migration  
I see us living in peace like a colony of  
penguins

I see hope, I see change  
I see  
A brighter Sierra Leone

*"I see change unleashing in Sierra Leone  
my heart blasting with encouragement  
Citizens will be free from nagging desires  
and unnecessary torment  
We will all be proud to be called citizens  
of this continent"*



## ABOUT THE POET

In February and March 2017, Miss Adama Benya participated in the first annual National Debating Championship organized by Chosen Generation Sierra Leone leading her school, the St. Joseph's Convent to the semi-finals. She has since gained admission to the university and will be studying Economics at the University of Sierra Leone in the 2017/18 academic year.

Adama loves singing, poetry and acting.

# EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SIERRA LEONE

by Aminata Fornah

According to Brutland: "Sustainability is meeting the need of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". Sustainable Education for Development therefore is the adoption of holistic approaches to education with the aim of creating a better and a more prosperous world for the future generation.

It is very interesting to note that human right is at the center of all sustainable development interventions. A vision which is of progress that integrates immediate and long-term objectives that looks into the rights of children and youths in Sierra Leone, and ensures that they have their basic amenities without discrimination in all spheres. As stated in the human right convention on the right of the child "Education is universal and should be inclusive to all, even children, youth and adult with disability should have access to normal learning.

Education for a sustainable development simply implies that every child should be given the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills, aptitude and value which is necessary for a sustainable development irrespective of their background. The approach for attaining this should not be center plus one but every aspect needs to be carefully considered in order for the mind to function in a dynamic way to detect change and work towards that change.

Sierra Leone lagged behind other nations in meeting the MDGs as a result of poor management of the economy and lack of resources, which could be attributed to the social and political unrest that the country has sometimes been plagued with. This has resulted in poor education with widespread discrepancy in the quality of education accessible to the rich and the poor, with children from very impoverished backgrounds usually forced to opt out of school.

Education is an important benchmark for sustainable development. But poverty, in countries like Sierra Leone, represents a

formidable challenge to ensuring quality education for all.



Children and youths are mostly affected by the looming poverty: they go to school on hungry stomachs which

make it extremely difficult to concentrate while at school. Generally, pupils from poor backgrounds don't have the necessary ingredients that will facilitate an environment of learning.

This prevalent issue has led to the denial of lot of opportunities cutting across culture and gender. Women for instance bear a lot of disproportionate burden of poverty which has infringed on their human right. Women, youth and children are the most disadvantaged lot in Sierra Leone. Yet, it is clearly very impossible to talk about sustainable development without an empowered women and youth population.

Let's draw an analogy from an ant colony? The million dollar question is: "what does an ant colony need to survive? An ant colony needs fresh air, access to fresh water, food and a sustainable habitation for survival.

In a nutshell, the ant colony analogy really portrays the need of children and youth—and humans in general. For effective education and learning, providing the enabling environment including availability of nutritious food to even children from poor homes cannot be overemphasized. It is only when the basic needs of the people have been truly met that we can truly look forward to sustainable multi-dimensional development in all spheres of life.

Apart from food, the location of schools, particularly in rural communities is another hindrance to access to quality education that needs to be closely examined. In many sparsely populated villages, the closest school maybe a number of miles away from

the pupil's home. Walking a long distances to school, can pose significant limitations to education particularly for girls and children in their early years of primary school. It can as a matter of fact effectively deter learning .

Nelson Mandela beautifully captures the importance of education to sustainable development when he stated outright that **"We live in an era of intense and vicious competition in which the richest reward are reserved for those who have undergone the most thorough training and who have attained the highest academic qualification in their respective fields"**

It clearly emphasizes the importance of education for multiple developments in Sierra Leone.

In this light the government and development stakeholders should ensure to direct considerable resources to the provision of primary up to tertiary education for all, so that every child can have access to education. They also should address the challenges and bottle-necks that affect the effective delivery of learning tools.

This is our best bet for keeping up with the incredible development pace of an intensely vicious competitive world.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Aminata Fornah is a passionate youths, women and child rights advocate. She enjoys writing and hopes that her writings can help inspire hope in young people and as well provoke reforms in Sierra Leone. Aminata currently studies in the Department of History and African Studies, Fourah Bay College and is a long-standing member of Chozen Generation Sierra Leone.**

PHOTO NEWS



**Int'l Youth Day Celebrations**

Chosen Generation Sierra Leone joined other youth leaders on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Africell American Corner to commemorate this year Youths' Day in a discussion on how to curb youth violence



**Landslides wreak Havoc in Freetown**

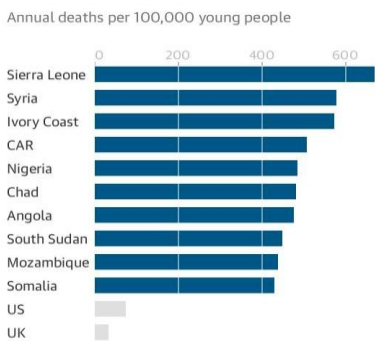
On Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, heavy rains caused the Sugar Loaf Mountain at Regent to cave in on a small neighborhood in Matomeh. Hundreds, possibly thousands were reported buried under the rubble.

QUICK YOUTH FACTS

1 out of 150

Sierra classified as the world's most dangerous country to be a young person with more people between the ages of 15 and 29 dying than any other nation in the world. The study which was published in the UK's Guardian Newspaper analyzed data from the World Health Organization. 1 out of every 150 young persons in Sierra Leone was reported to have died in 2015

**Nine of the 10 most dangerous countries to be a young person are in Africa**



Guardian graphic | Source: WHO. US and UK shown for comparison

**CGSL MEMBER OF THE MONTH**

**Mohamed Bola Conteh**

(BOSS MB)



*Mr. Mohamed Bola Conteh posing for the camera after receiving an award on behalf of Chosen Generation Sierra Leone*

Mohamed Bola Conteh is a founding member of Chosen Generation Sierra Leone.

Currently serving as Finance Officer, Bola has been a vitally important pillar of the Chosen Generation vision of creating the next generation of Sierra Leonean leaders who will bring the much needed transformation.

A charismatic personality with a larger than-life-presence, Mohamed is mostly known within the CGSL family as the socialite who always lights up the room. Whether at the birthday party of one of members or at an important CGSL function, Bola has built a solid reputation as the perfect handy-man in the house who always put in extreme personal sacrifices to ensure the success of the organization's programmes.

This month, we are honored to announce Mr. Conteh as the recipient of the organization's inaugural Member of the Month Award for his significant contribution to the setting up of a CGSL Memorial Page

for the victims of the city's recent flood and mudslide.

Boss MB as he is fondly called led a team of volunteers to identify, collect and collate the names, age, occupations and photographs of victims of the August 14<sup>th</sup> disaster.

His efforts saw the compilation of a comprehensive list of close to 100 deceased victims—a reliable source of information now used by individuals and organizations for identifying victims.



Mohamed was born on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1992. He attended the Sierra Leone Grammar School and then the Albert Academy before proceeding to the Milton Margai College of Education where he obtained a diploma in Business Administration.

CGSL wishes Mr. Conteh the best in all his aspirations.

## Behold, The Academic Animal!

Born in Moyamba in the mid-eighties, Edmond Augustine Kanu is the first of four children. He started his education at the Saint Columba Primary School in Moyamba before the rebel war forced his family to seek refuge in Freetown where he has lived ever since.

While Edmond has always been among the best students in his year groups throughout school (He scored the second best result in his primary and junior secondary schools in both the NPSE and BECE exams), it was at the Albert Academy that he gained national prominence. Edmond famously got 8 A1s in the 2003 West African Senior School Examination, one of just three or four Sierra Leoneans to have ever achieved such a feat.

He graduated four years later with a first class honors degree in Economics from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone bagging awards for best graduating student in both the Department of Economics and Commerce and the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law in the process. Edmond's sheer intellectual energy earned him the nickname "The Academic Animal".

Edmond has since completed a Master of Arts in Development Studies (merit) from the University of Leeds, in the United Kingdom and a Master of Science in Agricultural Economics (distinction) from the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart Germany. He is currently a PhD candidate at the Institute of Agricultural Policy at the Christian-Albrecht's-University of Kiel in Northern Germany. His research focuses on employing interdisciplinary approaches to analyze agricultural, rural and food policies in his home country, Sierra Leone.

His academic laurels have come in spite of his very humble beginnings. Raised mostly by a single mum who had to fend for him and three other siblings, seeing him through school was a real struggle. But his mum was always resolute, up to

the point of giving up her last penny to meet the cost of his education. Among others, Edmond identifies the struggles her mum went through to see him through school as one of the motivating factors that continue to fuel his academic journey. **"My mom worked tirelessly to give my siblings and me a decent future. Whenever my mum was unemployed, it was terrible. So there was always this fear that if she stayed out of job for even half a year, we might starve and drop out of school"** reminisces Edmond.

On his part, Edmond ensured that the selfless sacrifices of her mother always matched his own focus, commitment and determination for success. From borrowing text books from friends throughout school to sometimes commuting on foot to Fourah Bay College through the famous 'Canal' Hills of Mount Aureol, Edmond pulled all the stops to achieve his objective.

Whether it is not being considered for a

**. "My mom worked tirelessly to give my siblings and me a decent future. Whenever my mum was unemployed, it was terrible. So there was always this fear that if she stayed out of job for even half a year, we might starve and drop out of school"**

scholarship even though he has constantly graduated at the top end of his year groups in school and university, or being overlooked for jobs he is qualified for probably because he does not have the right social connections, Edmond has sometimes felt the system has been somewhat unfair to him. However, his faith and belief in his country still remains unflinching. A firm believer in his home university's motto of "NON SIBI SED ALIIS", which literally translates into English as "Not for oneself, but for others", Edmond continues to believe that the knowledge he'll gain from his doctoral studies should not only be for his own personal benefit but also be primarily used to improve the welfare of his family and country.

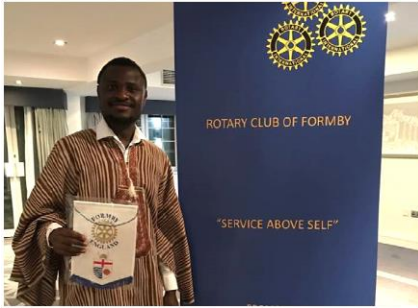


Edmond says his first preference after studies would be to return home and serve his country. But he is apprehensive: **"...experience has taught me that because I don't have political connections, it will be difficult for me to find a job with a Ph.D; I have been told that Ph.D holders are seen as overqualified. So my worst fear is that after my Ph.D, I might actually return home and not find a job"**

The issue of our brightest minds leaving our shores and never returning for fear of lack of opportunities is not a particularly new phenomenon, and certainly, Edmond's fears are legitimate. There are hundreds, even thousands of Sierra Leone's talented sons and daughters abroad plying their trade in Arts, Medicine, Law, Engineering, Academia and several other important fields. This, in spite of the fact that Sierra Leone is in dire need of human resources in these areas to accelerate the nation's development aspirations.

It remains to be seen what path Edmond would take when he completes his studies in a couple of years: whether he would dare all the odds to come back and help inspire development in his home country or like many of his compatriots, simply give in to the juicy alternative of rather contributing his knowledge and expertise abroad where all the uncertainties surrounding a decent future may be reasonably absolved. What however is irrefutable is the fact that our systems need reforms and wholesale redesigns to align with Twenty First Century global trends where hard work and excellence take supreme prominence over every other considerations including but not limited to tribal, regional and political ties. Our country stands at a defining crossroad.

## HINDOLO GEORGE WILLIAMS: S/LEONE'S LITTLE KNOWN ENGINEERING ENIGMA WHO COULD HAVE BECOME A CATHOLIC PRIEST



CGSL caught up with one of SL's most accomplished young academics who took us through his incredible academic journey

**Full Names:** Hindolo George-Williams

**Place of birth:** Segbwema. Second of 4 Children and both parents still alive.

**Primary Education:** St Peter's primary Segbwema. Was always top of my class. Got best NPSE.

**Secondary:** Government Secondary School Kenema. Best BECE in School and best WASSCE (2004) in the East (4A's and 4B's) with A in all 4 core sciences (Mathematics, F/Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics).

**Undergrad:** FBC, best graduating student award with a First Class in Electrical Engineering, SLIE award for best Engineering project and got a GPA of 4.0 on two occasions.

**Postgraduate:** Won the prestigious Commonwealth Scholarship Award to study at the University of Liverpool(2013), MSc(Engineering) in Energy Generation with Distinction. Graduated top of my class scoring a whopping 96% in his project. Best project. I later got an offer from the school of Engineering to work on a 4 year project leading to a PhD in Risk and Uncertainty Engineering? In May 2015, I was part of a team of 3 that represented the University of Liverpool at the annual Mathematical Games competition(an international competition) organized by the French Federation for Mathematics. We won second prize.

**Challenges faced:** Born to parents who are both teachers, having to make do with limited resources was my greatest challenge. Though evidently this didn't affect my overall

success, I however believe I could have done greater things.

**Motivation:** When I was a kid, I wanted to become a Catholic Priest. I nurtured this dream for an appreciable proportion of my primary school days until one day when I attended a science fair. I was so enthralled by the strange but fascinating demonstrations that I couldn't help falling in love with science. I was only in class 4 but I vowed to become either a medical doctor or an Electrical Engineer someday.

**Favourite Quote:** "It is always expedient to dream but when you dream big you must also work hard, for only you can make your dreams come true".

### Profile Summary

I am at the end of the third of a 4 year dual PhD degree program between the University of Liverpool (UoL) in the UK and the National Tsing Hua University (NTHU) in Taiwan. Dual research degree programmes entail working on a large project (often multidisciplinary) sponsored by two universities. The research student is registered at both universities and is supervised by a team composed of senior researchers from the two universities. On successful completion of the project, each University assesses the student independently and awards them a PhD if deemed qualified. The expectation, therefore, is the award of two PhD degrees by the end of the 4th year.

My current research develops novel and computationally efficient techniques to model and evaluate the reliability of complex systems. The project applies risk and uncertainty engineering principles to nuclear power generation. For this, I am hosted by the Institute for Risk & Uncertainty when at UoL and the Institute of Nuclear Engineering and Science when at NTHU. Though nuclear power plant safety is used as a case study, the techniques developed are generally applicable to most systems. They have been applied to power systems, offshore oil installations, and are applicable even to transportation networks

### List of Publications

1. George-Williams, H. and Patelli, E., 2017. Maintenance strategy optimization of complex power systems susceptible to maintenance delays and operational dynamics. IEEE Transactions on Reliability (Accepted for publication).
2. George-Williams, H. and Patelli, E., 2017. Efficient availability

assessment of reconfigurable multi-state systems with interdependencies. Reliability Engineering & System Safety, 165, pp.431-444.

3. George-Williams, H. and Patelli, E., 2016. A hybrid load flow and event driven simulation approach to multi-state system reliability evaluation. Reliability Engineering & System Safety, 152, pp.351-367.
4. George-Williams, H., Patelli, E. and Lee, M., 2016. A Framework for Power Recovery Probability Quantification in Nuclear Power Plant Station Blackout Sequences. In Proceedings of the Probabilistic Safety Assessment and Management Conference (Vol. 13).
5. George-Williams, H., Patelli, E. and Lee, M., 2016. Reliability & performance analysis of multi-state systems based on analytical load flow considerations. In Proceedings of the European Safety and Reliability Conference (Vol. 26).
6. George-Williams, H. and Patelli, E., 2016. Efficient availability assessment of reconfigurable complex multi-state systems with interdependencies. In Proceedings of the European Safety and Reliability Conference (Vol. 26).
7. George-Williams, H. and Patelli, E., 2015. Monte Carlo-Based Reliability/Availability Analysis Algorithm for Efficient Maintenance Planning. In Proceedings of the Structural Mechanics in Reactor Technology Conference (Vol. 23).

### Awards

- i. Joint first prize winner of the 2017 mathematical competitive games organized by the French Federation of Mathematics
- ii. [http://www.ffjm.org/upload/fichiers/ConcoursSCM/SCM\\_FFJM\\_Competitive\\_Game\\_2016\\_2017\\_comments.pdf](http://www.ffjm.org/upload/fichiers/ConcoursSCM/SCM_FFJM_Competitive_Game_2016_2017_comments.pdf)

### Reviewer Status

Hindolo has reviewed for the following top academic journals in my field

- i. Reliability Engineering and System Safety
- ii. Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Transactions on Reliability
- iii. Institute of Industrial and System Engineers (IISE) Transactions

# About Chozen Generation Sierra Leone

**C**hozen Generation Sierra Leone is an award-winning, faith-based, youths empowerment and leadership development organization in Sierra Leone. The organization has since its inception created an avenue for young and emerging leaders to hone their leadership skills and impact other youths based on the promotion of solid moral values and principles as core requirement for effective leadership.

We have successfully embarked on several awareness raising campaigns and advocacies, surveys, empowerment workshops and trainings that were all geared toward making Sierra Leone a better place.

Some of our major projects include the Public Buses Watchdog Initiative, The Kick Ebola Out Campaign, transportation survey, youth training/workshop on Civic Education, Social Entrepreneurship to name but a few. CGSL has also been an avenue of encouragement and hope for youths across the country.

## Our mission Statement:

To empower youths nationwide through the provision of relevant training opportunities, mentoring, coaching and support, and imbibing in them strong moral values to enable them tackle the leadership challenges of Sierra Leone

## Vision:

To create the next generation of leaders in all spheres of the Sierra Leonean society

## CONTACT US

Like our page and stay connected

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\*\*\*\*You can also send us your articles, poems, essays or even advertisements\*\*\*\*



*A cross section of the Chozen Generation S/Leone family*

*(L-R) Musa, joel, Aminata, Mucktaru, Naomi, Michael, Harry, Linda, Daboh, Ashley, Gloria, MB*