



Ambassador Baryoh meets Sierra Leoneans from across Germany; speaks at 6th German Africa Infrastructure Forum

Sierra Leoneans from across Germany in a meeting summoned Saturday December 1st 2018 at the behest of the Sierra Leone Embassy in Berlin, have been commended and praised by

Ambassador Dr. Mbaimba Baryoh for doing a lot to improve on the socio-economic situation of the country back home whilst stressing the importance for them to officially register their stay with the embassy. He was responding to a number of issues raised by various speakers some of them, he said, can be discussed and solved.

He says he was extremely overwhelmed at the large turnout adding that he readily accepted the offer from President Maada Bio to serve as Ambassador in a country in studied and lived for 18 years. So more or less, it was like a homecoming for him. One of the reasons, he told them why embassies exists is to look after the welfare of its citizens and they too should follow the laws of that country to enable them live a comfortable life.

In a nutshell, he explained to them the flagship programme of the President and country, the priority of which is education to which 20% of the national budget is allocated and is benefitting primary, secondary and some college students. The implementation of the Treasury Single Account, the robust fight against corruption making mention of the recent MCC index which Sierra Leone was able to meet the threshold for the first time with a pass mark on the fight against graft.

Respective contributions were made by Dr. Winston Webber who stated that it has been impossible to get Sierra Leoneans together and appealed for unity devoid of politics and emphasised the need to register Sierra Leoneans through the embassy. Dr. Ben Sannoh told the Ambassador that he is ready to work with him and the embassy. He mentioned previous attempt made to bring Sierra Leoneans together through an organisation but power struggle from within resulted to many of the members breaking away. And reiterated the importance of an umbrella organisation that is a representative of all Sierra Leoneans, which Ambassador Baryoh lauded in the sense that it will serve as

the conduit to reach the wider membership of Sierra Leoneans across Germany. Several others made meaningful contributions.

A representative of a youth alliance in attendance, Marcia Cole, 22-year-old law student asked that they be recognised because their vision and aspiration is to inspire young Sierra Leoneans between the ages of 16 and 35 both in Germany and back home.

In an unrelated development, Ambassador Baryoh at the 6th German African Infrastructure Forum hosted by Afrika-Verein der Deutschen Wirtschaft at the NH Collection Hotel between 3rd and 4th December asked investors to turn attention to Sierra Leone especially in the area of Housing where Ministers from Ghana and Botswana told the gathering that they have a 1.7 million and 200,000 housing deficit respectively. Like in previous occasions where he has been meeting various high profile personalities, he made mention of the calamities Sierra Leone went through from the rebel war, Ebola, Mudslide and pleaded for the negative perception of the country which some investors still have in mind to be thrown away as the country with a resilient people and a new government in place, the narrative should now change positively having conducted three democratic elections since the end of the rebel war, the country is open for business and President Bio is moving in the right direction.