

MEETING WITH MADAM FINDA DIANA KONOMANYI IN UK

The meeting on 05/05/2017 was held at 99 Chandler Way, Peckham, SE15 6GB.

The meeting started with a Muslim Prayer by Sheikh Alhaji Ahmed Sulaiman Bah at 21:21 hours. This was followed by a Christian Prayer by Mrs. Alice Tutu.

There was a self-introduction by attendees with the exception of three former chairmen and the VIP guests; Madam Finda Diana Konomanyi and Chief Paul Ngaba Saquee (V) of Tankor Chiefdom in Kono District, who were introduced by the KDDA UK Secretary Mr. Aiah Yornie Sodengbe. The former chairmen in attendance were; Dr. Kai Ngegba who hosted the meeting, chief Tamba Opel Sam Sumana, and Chief Saa Y.O.Lebbie.

Our host Dr. Kai Ngegba delivered the welcome address and urged all to make use of the current opportunity being a great time for Kono.

In his 10 minutes' address, the Kono District Development Association (KDDA) UK Chairman Mr. Aiah Bondowa Tondoneh stated that the gathering was a family meeting and emphasised the need for partnership with stakeholders of Kono District to achieve the development goals of KDDA UK.

In his address, the Sierra Leone Deputy High Commissioner to UK His Excellency Tamba Mansa Pormasu Ngegba, expressed his delight in the direction of KDDA UK. He stated that peace is essential for any development and urged us to focus on the development of Sierra Leone.

In his address, Chief Saquee (V) opined that he was excited to be with KDDA UK and willing to work with the organisation to achieve the development goals of Kono District. He stated that

the mistrust of the past is gone and we must move forward. He stressed that he encouraged Madam Finda Diana Konomanyi to engage with KDDA UK after been convinced of our sincerity in pursuing development for Kono District. He stated that he is contemplating on attending the Kono Conference in USA. For development to succeed, we should engage everybody. In his words "You don't have to like me just be sincere with me. Let's respect each other."

Madam Finda Diana Konomanyi wasted no time in stating that his presence at the KDDA UK meeting had nothing to do with Politics. In her words "This is a family meeting". She thanked Chief Saquee for initiating this meeting and stated that she was very pleased to be with KDDA UK. She briefed the audience on recent developments in Kono and that they continue to strive very hard to project Kono forward. She said there are improvements in the road network, electrification of koidu city and the ongoing water project from Yeekuma to Koidu city and the immediate environs. She also thanked the Minister responsible for Agriculture Prof. Monty Jones for current projects in three non-diamondiferous Chiefdoms. She stressed the need to turn a new page and apologised to those who feel angry. In her closing remarks, she said "I'm ready for any question. Ask and I have answers. If you find out that my answers are not true, don't trust me anymore ".

A question and answer session followed. A wide range of questions and comments on her relationship with the Elected Vice President Chief Alhaji Sam Sumana, the dismissal of Chief Sam Sumana, the suspension of Mayor Lamina, the role of the Kono Advisory Council (KonAC) in Kono District, violence and demonstrations in Kono District, FGM issues in Sierra Leone, the 709 carats diamond found in Kono District, Microcredit issues, Vocational schools, environmental project partnership with KDDA UK, and the previous frosty relationship with the

Diaspora Kono community, were thoroughly discussed. Her response on these issues lasted one hour forty minutes. Madam Konomanyi pronounced her desire to be a member of KDDA UK and contributed £1000.00 as her membership contribution. She also declared her willingness to assist some Diaspora members to acquire land for development purposes in Sierra Leone.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Mrs. Finda Ngegba at 01:15 hours. There were 21 people in attendance.

Thanks.

Mr. Aiah Yornie Sodengbe
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