



Hon. Ms. Justice Umu Tejan Jalloh

**STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF SIERRA LEONE  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> FOUNDATION DAY CEREMONY  
OF THE SIERRA LEONE LAW SCHOOL**

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Attorney General & Minister of Justice, My Lords, Interim Director, President and members of the Sierra Leone Bar Association, Tutors and Staff of the Sierra Leone Law School, Members of the Sierra Leone Law School Alumni Association, Students of the School, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

Last year when I made a statement of this nature, I did so in the capacity of Acting Chief Justice and thereby acting Chairman of the Council of Legal Education of Sierra Leone.

Today, it is my duty and pleasure as Chief Justice and therefore substantive Chair of the Council of Legal Education of Sierra Leone to make this statement on the Nineteenth Foundation Celebrations of the School.

Last year, the theme was "Contemporary Challenges Facing the Legal Profession in Sierra Leone" this year I am happy to note that some of the perceived negativisms by the general public of the legal profession have somehow been eroded, by the positive strides now being made by the Judiciary.

The topic for this years lecture "The machinery of Prosecution in Sierra Leone - Professional Reflections " to be delivered by the 1<sup>st</sup> Director of Public Prosecutions in Sierra Leone N. D. Tejan-Cole Esq. is very apt as the School has now developed a new curriculum which has a new approach to lectureship in the School.

I must once more publicly register my appreciation to the Hon Justice Bankole Thompson for his support to Council and the very good work he is doing in the School; for developing this new curriculum and also, for refusing to accept any remuneration as Interim Director of the School.

From reports I have been receiving, he has also built up a very healthy foreign bank reserve and the School finances which was rather shakey at his assumption of office, has now assumed a very firm footing.

I am also happy to note, that the School has been steadily progressing since its inception. The School started with a role of thirty-seven students and to date the School has enrolled Three Hundred and Thirty Three Students.

I must at this point, point out that numerical strength is by no means beneficial if there is not a corresponding improvement in the behaviour of alumni. I have to take judicial notice of the fact that some Graduates for the School have not been comporting themselves in a way that is commensurate with the ethics and dignity required or expected of them.

To you graduates of the Sierra Leone Law School coming out of Law School without completing pupillage and getting registered by the General Legal Council of Sierra Leone, does not make one a Barrister and such an aspiring pupil must comport him or herself in and out of court as a pupil Barrister and must pay proper respects to his or her senior colleagues.

This brings me to you, the present pupils of the School. Copy the examples of good Lawyers when you have the opportunity to start practising this noble profession, so that credit can accrue to your alma mater; also it would appear that you the present students have been indulging in a lot of back-biting, and quarrels are frequent among yourselves. Let me go down on record and say that should such behaviour continue, I would be left with no alternative but will, according to the powers vested in Council root out the disruptive students from among you so that the dignity of the School will be maintained.

Let me finally, on behalf of Council, thank all our guests for participating with us in our celebration of the Nineteenth Anniversary of the founding of the Sierra Leone Law School. Floreat the Council of Legal Education of Sierra Leone. Floreat the Sierra Leone Law School

I thank you for your kind attention.