

Tuesday, 27th of October, 2015

Member of the University College London Development Planning Unit, Colleagues of Njala University, I heartily welcome you on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Ernst Ndomahina who is unavoidably not here with us. He has however given full blessing for the implementation of this project. The setting up of an autonomous, sustainable and globally connected Urban Research Centre to be established within Njala University and anchored with the Institute of Geography and Development Studies based in Freetown is also a welcome development and must be applauded.

As all of us are aware and especially recalling the recent flood disaster not only in the Western Area but some part of the provinces is as a result of partly the lack of research and deep study of our Urban Planning processes. We at Njala with the only School of Environmental Sciences Curriculum is now rightly placed to undertake this research with out counterparts the University College London Development Planning Unit. The Development of this Policy by the two Institutions will compliment the efforts of the Government of Sierra Leone in Developing a comprehensive Urban Policy for the entire country.

Njala University is also thankful to Comic Relief who has provided the funding to kick-start this collaborative research. I hope that the implementation activities of this project will be done speedily and effectively for the mutual benefit of us all.

I thank you all,

Aly Turay

University Registrar

The Secretariat, Njala University

Njala, Sierra Leone