



## University of Sierra Leone

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29<sup>th</sup> June 2026

### STATEMENT BY PROFESSOR AIAH LEBBIE, VICE CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL, ON INVESTING IN THE TRANSFORMATION OF FOURAH BAY COLLEGE ON ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY

Distinguished members of the University Court, esteemed alumni, valued partners from the private and public sectors, and friends of Fourah Bay College.

As we approach our Bicentennial in February 2027, we stand at a pivotal juncture. For 200 years, Fourah Bay College has been the "Athens of West Africa," a beacon of higher education that has produced leaders, innovators, and policymakers who have shaped Sierra Leone and the African continent. This anniversary is not merely a celebration of a glorious past; it is a strategic opportunity for renewal and a launchpad for our third century of service.



The vision for our future is anchored in a comprehensive transformation agenda built on key development pillars. This is a roadmap to modernize our infrastructure, enhance academic excellence, and secure our legacy for generations to come. The pillars include critical investments such as: the construction of a perimeter fence to protect our campus from encroachment; the

expansion of sustainable water supply systems and a Solar Power Electrification Project for energy sustainability; the modernization of our internal road network; the creation of an Education Endowment Fund to support research and scholarships; and the construction of a modern multipurpose academic facility. These are not just projects; they are the foundation for a stronger, more resilient FBC.

To realize this ambitious transformation, we are appealing for sustained funding to the tune of **\$200 million**. We call on the private sector, public institutions, our global alumni community, and international development partners to join us in this historic endeavor. This is not a request for charity, but an invitation to a partnership built on shared interests and mutual benefit. An investment in Fourah Bay College is an investment in the future of our society, as a stronger FBC means a stronger Sierra Leone. Our alumni are your leaders, your skilled workforce, and your innovators.

Now is the time for all whose umbilical cords are tied to FBC to take responsibility for its maintenance and improvement. Let us move beyond ceremony and collectively build the institution our nation deserves. Together, we will not only commemorate 200 years of excellence but also construct the next 100 years of impact.

**Professor Aiah Lebbie**

Vice Chancellor and Principal

University of Sierra Leone



# FOURAH BAY COLLEGE

200 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE. A LEGACY FOR GENERATIONS.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## FBC UNVEILS AMBITIOUS HOSTEL EXPANSION AS CORNERSTONE OF BICENTENNIAL LEGACY

### APPEALS TO INVESTORS FOR BANKABLE PROJECT

**FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE** – The blueprints are nearing completion, the Bill of Quantity is on the horizon, and a transformative vision is taking root—Fourah Bay College (FBC) is moving decisively to address one of its most pressing challenges as it prepares to step into its third century: the critical shortage of modern, secure, and well-equipped student accommodation.

The University Administration is issuing a compelling, urgent appeal to investors at home and abroad to partner on this bankable, income-generating initiative.

For decades, demand for on-campus housing at West Africa's oldest university has far outstripped supply, forcing countless students to endure long commutes or settle for substandard private accommodations. Now, as FBC counts down to its historic Bicentennial on 18 February 2027, the College has identified the construction of modern student hostels—designed for both male and female students with world-class amenities—as a flagship development pillar of its “Next 100 Years” transformation agenda.



We cannot modernize FBC for the next century without dramatically increasing student access to quality hostel accommodation. This is not merely about beds—it is about creating a conducive living and learning environment that attracts the brightest minds from across Sierra Leone and the West African sub-region. To compete globally, we must house our students with dignity and security.

– Deputy Vice-Chancellor

His vision is wholeheartedly echoed by the Vice Chancellor and Principal, Professor Aiah R. Lebbie, who considers the hostel expansion an excellent initiative capable of generating substantial, sustainable income while dramatically enhancing student welfare and customer service.

The project is designed to be thoroughly bankable—a revenue-generating asset that promises attractive returns for private sector partners, development finance institutions, and diaspora investors alike.



#### A TRACK RECORD OF PROGRESS

Existing hostels on campus are already operational, with capacity for 1,220 students across 610 rooms.

Recent improvements—including the installation of water boreholes by alumnus Scott Davies—have significantly enhanced living conditions. The restoration of the Gloucester Dam further underscores FBC's commitment to improved infrastructure and better welfare for both staff and students.

But the current capacity remains insufficient to meet the considerable and growing demand.

The new hostel project will dramatically expand that capacity, offering modern, purpose-built accommodation that meets international standards and positions FBC as a destination of choice for students across the ECOWAS sub-region.



#### A CALL TO PARTNERS

The University Administration is now appealing to a broad spectrum of partners—private sector corporations, public institutions, development agencies, and Fourabites in the diaspora—to join this transformative journey.

As the Deputy Vice-Chancellor has articulated, “An investment in Fourah Bay College is an investment in the future of our society. Our alumni are your leaders, innovators, policymakers, and skilled workforce. A stronger Fourah Bay College means a stronger Sierra Leone.”

This is not a request for charity—it is an invitation to partnership built on shared interests and mutual benefit.



#### THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW

With the Bicentennial celebration just months away, the time to act is now. The Ministry of Technical and Higher Education has already pledged full institutional support, and fundraising activities are running through to February 2027 to support both the celebrations and long-term development projects.

The designs will soon be released, the Bill of Quantity will follow, and the shovels will break ground.

FBC is calling on all stakeholders to step forward and claim a stake in building the accommodation that will house the next generation of African leaders, scholars, and innovators.



#### INVEST IN EXCELLENCE. INVEST IN THE FUTURE.

Partner with Fourah Bay College to build a legacy that will inspire generations.

FOR INQUIRIES AND PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

+232 76 123456 / 77 123456

info@fbc.edu.sl

www.fbc.edu.sl

#FBC200

#HousingTheFuture

#BuildingFutures



# FOURAH BAY COLLEGE

SINCE 1827

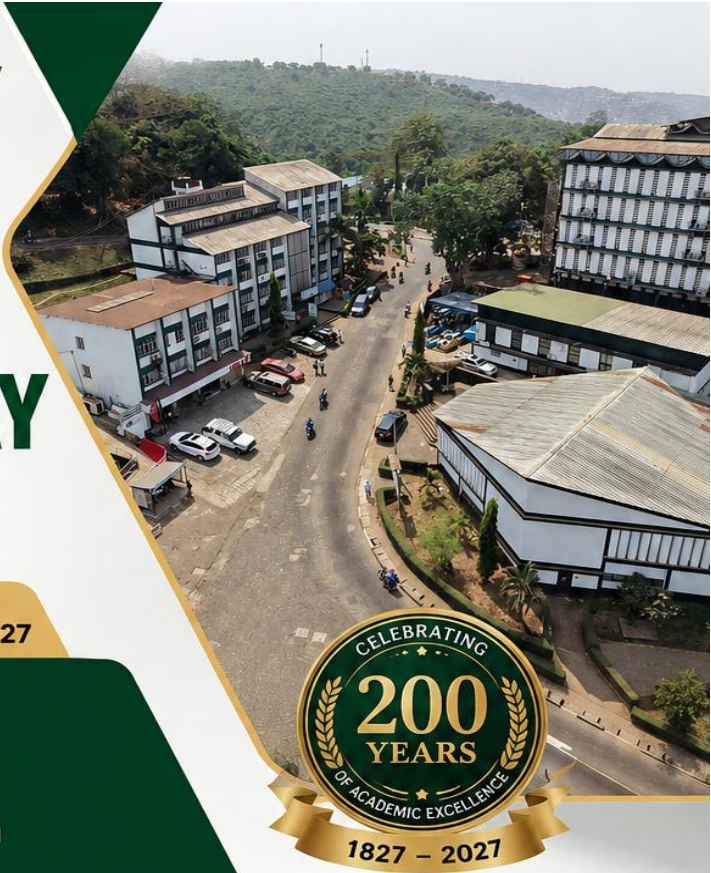
# DIGITIZING FOURAH BAY COLLEGE

TOWARDS THE BICENTENNIAL TRANSFORMATION AGENDA – 2027

**“Reimagining Africa’s Oldest Western-Style University for the Digital Age”**

A bold institutional transformation initiative to modernize academic and administrative systems at Fourah Bay College as part of the Bicentennial Development Agenda championed by

**Deputy Vice-Chancellor  
PROFESSOR ANDREW BAIIO.**



## KEY DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PRIORITIES



Online Admissions & Registration



Digital Teaching & Learning Platforms



Smart Records & Documentation Management



E-Library & Research Access



Digital Fee Payment Systems



Automated Timetabling



Electronic Notices & Communication



Online Result Processing & Publication



Integrated Administrative Management



Data-Driven Governance & Planning

## WHY DIGITIZATION MATTERS



EFFICIENCY



TRANSPARENCY



ACCESSIBILITY



ACCOUNTABILITY



INNOVATION



GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS



**BUILDING A SMARTER, STRONGER, AND FUTURE-READY FOURAH BAY COLLEGE  
AS WE JOURNEY TOWARDS 200 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN 2027.**

OUR LEGACY.  
OUR PRIDE.  
OUR FUTURE.

TOGETHER, LET’S TRANSFORM FOURAH BAY COLLEGE  
FOR THE DIGITAL AGE.

NON SIBI SED ALIS

# FOURAH BAY COLLEGE RACES TO SECURE ITS FUTURE WITH PERIMETER FENCE

As part of Bicentennial celebration, College launches fence project to end encroachment, boost security, and create room for growth.



Above: Aerial views of Fourah Bay College showing the extent of encroachment and the urgent need to secure the campus.

Fourah Bay College, the nation's premier institution of higher learning, has embarked on a critical initiative to secure its heritage and future by constructing a perimeter fence around its main campus.

The project, unveiled as part of the College's Bicentennial celebration, is aimed at halting massive encroachment that has destroyed parts of the College's botanical gardens, posed security threats, and left the institution with no land for future development.

## A LEGACY UNDER THREAT

For years, unauthorized structures have steadily crept onto College land, shrinking green spaces, disrupting the environment, and compromising the safety of students, staff and visitors. The situation has become critical.

*"If we don't act now, we risk losing more than land — we risk losing our legacy."*

— Prof. Aiah Lebbie,  
Vice Chancellor and Principal

## DESIGN APPROVED, PROCUREMENT UNDERWAY

The College has completed the design for the perimeter fence, as illustrated below. Procurement processes are currently underway to identify qualified contractors and suppliers.



## FUNDING IS THE MISSING LINK

While the design is ready and procurement is in motion, the College urgently needs financial support to bring the project to life. The estimated cost is substantial, but the returns — in security, preservation, and future growth — are priceless.

*"We are calling on our alumni, friends, and the Government to mobilize the resources needed to protect this sacred space for generations to come."*





— Prof. Aiah Lebbie

## DOOR-TO-DOOR OUTREACH FOR OUR FUTURE

Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Andrew Baio is leading a door-to-door outreach to alumni, partners, and stakeholders.

*"We have to protect our land or else prosperity will judge us."*

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

-  Make a donation
-  Partner with the College
-  Advocate for support
-  Be part of this historic project

## TOGETHER, WE SECURE OUR FUTURE

Fencing Fourah Bay College is more than a construction project — it is an investment in our heritage, our students, and the next 200 years.

**Let us protect our legacy.  
Let us build our future.**

For contributions and partnerships, contact the Development Office, Fourah Bay College.  
Together, let us secure our campus. Together, let us build our future.







# FOURAH BAY COLLEGE

## UNIVERSITY OF SIERRA LEONE

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## FBC 200TH ANNIVERSARY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Fourah Bay College (FBC), the pioneering institution of higher learning in West Africa founded in 1827, invites scholars, researchers, and practitioners from around the world to submit papers for its **200th Anniversary International Conference**.



**THEME:** *Two Centuries of Excellence: Reflecting, Reimagining, and Repositioning Fourah Bay College for Africa's Future*

**SUB-THEMES** (Include but not limited to):

- Education, Knowledge, and Nation Building
- Science, Technology, and Innovation for Development
- Governance, Leadership, and Institutional Transformation
- Culture, Heritage, and Identity in a Globalized World
- Health, Environment, and Sustainable Development
- Entrepreneurship, Industry, and Economic Transformation

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

- Call for Papers Opens: **1st June 2026**
- Abstract Submission Deadline: **31st August 2026**
- Notification of Acceptance: **30th September 2026**
- Full Paper Submission Deadline: **30th November 2026**
- Conference Dates: **9th – 11th March 2027**

**SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:**

- Abstracts (300–500 words) should be submitted via email or the conference portal.
- Full papers must follow the conference format and be original, unpublished work.



SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT TO:  
[fbc200conference@fbc200.org](mailto:fbc200conference@fbc200.org)



FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[www.fbc200.org](http://www.fbc200.org)

BE PART OF HISTORY.  
SHAPE THE NEXT 200 YEARS!



FOURAH BAY COLLEGE BICENTENNIAL LEGACY PROJECT

# FBC Set to Unveil State-of-the-Art Mini Stadium at Havelock Field

*A Visionary Facility for Sports, Congregation and National Transformation*



**A Legacy in the Making. A Future for Generations.**

**FREETOWN, Sierra Leone** – As Fourah Bay College (FBC) prepares to celebrate 200 years of academic excellence in February 2027, a bold and transformative dream is taking shape at the heart of the Mount Aureol campus.

The proposed FBC Mini Stadium at the iconic Havelock Field is no longer just a vision – the design is complete, and the Bill of Quantity is already in preparation.

This game-changing facility will redefine the College landscape, serving as a modern hub for sports, worship, academic congregations, cultural events, and public functions.

## Transforming Havelock Field for a New Era

For decades, Havelock Field has been the heartbeat of FBC – a ground of history, memories, and youthful energy. This bankable project will elevate it into a world-class mini stadium that meets international standards while preserving the heritage and identity of the College.

The stadium is designed not only to host athletic competitions but also to accommodate large congregations, conferences, graduations, concerts, and national celebrations – truly a multipurpose facility for the College, the nation, and generations yet unborn.

**“** *This is more than a stadium. It is an investment in our students, our community, and our future. It will inspire excellence, promote unity, and showcase the best of Fourah Bay College to the world.*

– Professor Aiah R. Lebbie  
Vice Chancellor and Principal, University of Sierra Leone

## A Design That Inspires

The proposed mini stadium is a masterpiece of functionality and aesthetics.

From the image, the design reflects:

- A modern oval-shaped arena with a standard football pitch and athletics track.
- Elegant covered stands with ergonomic seating for spectators.
- A harmonious blend of green and white – the proud colours of FBC.
- Surrounding natural landscape with mature trees and rolling hills, creating a serene and refreshing environment.
- Well-planned facilities including changing rooms, offices, first aid, and storage spaces.
- Strong perimeter fencing for security and crowd management.
- Accessibility and safety features designed to meet global standards.

This architectural concept fuses modern infrastructure with natural beauty, making the Havelock Mini Stadium not just a structure, but an experience – a place where excellence, unity, and tradition converge.

**“** *We are building the next 100 years of Fourah Bay College. This facility will be a beacon of hope, discipline, and pride for our students and all Fourabites.*

– Professor Andrew Balo  
Deputy Vice Chancellor and Principal, FBC

## More Than a Stadium – A Complete Sporting and Recreation Complex

The project goes beyond the stadium. The master plan includes:

- Modern hostel facilities for students and visiting teams.
- Training grounds and warm-up areas.
- Recreational spaces for relaxation and wellness.
- Offices and administrative blocks.
- Ample parking and access roads.
- Sustainable and eco-friendly infrastructure.

This integrated approach ensures that FBC becomes a model of holistic campus development in Sierra Leone and the region.



**HOSTEL FACILITIES**



**RECREATION AREA**



**SPORTING AND SUPPORT FACILITIES**





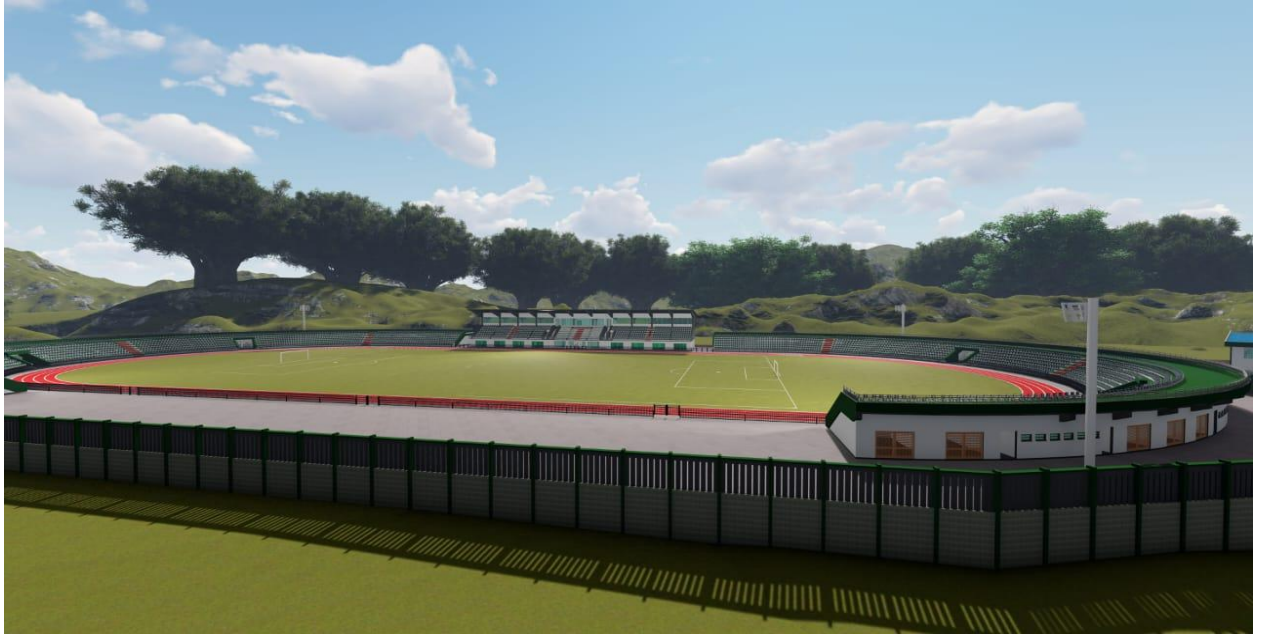




Figure 5: Proposed Rehabilitated Havelock Road Section Linking Kortright, Proposed Stadium and Tree Planting

**By Dr. Tonya Musa**

**Director of Communication and International Relations**