



University of Sierra Leone

DIRECTORATE OF COMMUNICATION & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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A Monument to Perseverance: The New University Secretariat Rises

One of the most visible testaments to Professor Aiah Lebbie's transformative leadership is the imminent completion of the new University Secretariat building at A.J. Momoh Street, Tower Hill. Originally conceived under former Vice Chancellor Professor Ekundayo



Thompson as a strategic initiative to elevate the University's stature, the project had unfortunately stalled and was abandoned for years, raising serious concerns about value for money and casting a shadow over the institution's aspirations.

Upon assuming office, **Professor Lebbie made the reactivation and completion of this dormant project a top priority.** His vision was clear: *to swiftly deliver a functional headquarters that would consolidate core administrative functions, including the Finance Directorate, the University*

Registry, and the Office of the Vice Chancellor and Principal, under one roof. This

centralization is designed to streamline operations, enhance coordination, and improve oversight across all university units.



Beyond its practical utility, the building's impressive height, prime location, and modern design are set to prestigiously reposition the University of Sierra Leone. It will serve as a



powerful symbol of progress to visitors and development partners, while instilling renewed pride in students and alumni. Recognizing this strategic importance, Professor Lebbie successfully garnered the crucial support of the University Chancellor, PC. Dr. Margaret Baio Gbanie IV, to advance construction despite significant economic and financial headwinds. This commitment has been matched by the resilient financial stewardship of Finance Director Dr. Abu Kai

Kamara, who has meticulously managed resources to fund the project while simultaneously ensuring the uninterrupted payment of staff salaries and other critical obligations.

Professor Lebbie's personal engagement extended to the building's design. To maximize



utility, he initiated a redesign of the internal layout, reconfiguring walls and pillars to create significantly more office space on each floor than the original plan allowed. The completed Secretariat will be a fully modern facility, featuring air-conditioned offices, state-of-the-art technology, quality amenities, and a staff canteen.

The project's completion also creates a positive ripple effect: IPAM will gain valuable room to expand by occupying the current Secretariat building.

As Professor Lebbie reported at the last congregation, the building is now in its final stages and is expected to be commissioned very soon. Its rise from a long-abandoned site to a beacon of modern administration underscores the unwavering support of the University Court, administration, and staff for Professor Lebbie's leadership, a collective resolve that is accelerating strategic reform and building a new future for the University of Sierra Leone.

By Dr. Tonya Musa

Director of Communication and International Relations



