

STATUS REPORT ON ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD AT THE ONE WORLD LINK COMMUNITY CENTRE – MATTRU ROAD, BO SIEERA LEONE ON THE 31ST MAY, 2008. REPORT PRESENTED BY ALFRED MAADA FOBAY, FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

Chair person, Fellow Executive members, Friends and Well wishers, today 31st May, 2008 mark the end of my mandate given to me some three (3) years ago as head of finances in this noble friendly organization. My period of services was really eventful, experience sharing and sometimes swinging like a pendulum between the African and Western Cultures.

I happened to have worked with an Executive that had different management backgrounds: i.e. some from school management, the Chairman and I from commercial entity. I was therefore able to adopt four basic management pillars as guiding principles during my tenure of office.

I was for that reason Democratic and therefore Delegate and recognized limitation of my functions but Determine and Discipline without fear or favour. These were 4D principles I was working with.

During my tenure of office the following event took place, it is left you my friends to judge how well they were handled:

1. My Executive and I was the Silver Jubilee Executive, you can agree with me the kind of publicity and celebration that was organized. There was a whole week long programmes, Sensitization programmes over KISS 104, Debate and Drama, Church and March Pass along the principal streets of Bo and provide refreshment for all participants.
2. We also inherited a 35% completed Community Centre Project which had started in November 2002. We did not only complete it but also made improvements. We installed water facilities – Dug water well and bought Milla Tanks as water reservoir to the Water Well. Add stair case (Back step) leading to the Guest Rooms. We also installed and equipped the centre with modern facilities within our reach: Digital Television, Musical Set, AC, Decent Beds, Flip Chart, Vehicle and maintained the centre clean.
3. We transformed into reality the existence of Women and Youth Wings, by starting and completing Women and Youth Centre. The construction lasted for just 5 weeks. It started on the 12th April 2008 and completed on the 25th May 2008. It will also interest you to know that, the funding was 50%-50%. First in the history of One World Link Bo Committee. The Project cost was 20million including the unfinished drainage work. My appeal is that, we should recognize that each committee has something to give and receive. Therefore benefit should flow from both directions. OWL is not charitable neither a donor organization but mere friendship recognizing international cooperation among communities.
4. In January 2007 we also received One (1) 20ft container of assorted used items. Handling, Distribution and making general reserve was first of it kind. When the container was received, a committee was set up to look into who were to benefit. Based on their report, the distribution was done. We even organized a special Programme for it and invited stakeholder in Bo Community to witness the ceremony.

5. Many visitations were made from both ends.
6. On a sad note, my Chairman who has been working assiduously is unavoidably absent due to ill Health. At this moment, I am making prayer request for his speedy recovering.
7. Financial Management. When I took over, OWL finances were in disarray. It was not professionally handled. Since I have financial background and with my practical experience, the financial limitations were a challenge to me. I introduced a voucher system, insisting on Bank transactions for all revenues and expenditures. All payment goes through payment voucher, signed and approved by the Chairman, before cheques are written. At the same time all income lodged into any of the three Bank accounts. Make sure reports are available at all times during Executive meetings or any time appropriate. OWL finances were no longer a taboo to talk about. Today our bank balances are as follows:

Rokel Commercial Bank - Foreign – £678.00 British Pounds,
 Rokel Commercial Bank - Local Le.532,464.14
 Sierra Leone Commercial Bank: Le.3,201,828.20

8. The Centre has really contributed to her operational cost, all local costs: salaries, maintenance, Light Bills, Contract Security Fees, Improvements are all 90% from the operational revenue. If the centre is managed well, especially the finances it has the potential to raise more revenue and therefore more developmental activities will be done locally.
9. Membership presently is 189 categorized as follows: Individuals 133, Primary School – 18, Secondary Schools – 15 and other Institutions – 25. There are a lot of lapse members. Even to pay meager annual subscription is a problem. The annual subscription is so insignificant that not even 2% of operational cost can come from it. I hope the new executive shall make a review.
10. We are now faced with operational challenges, your participation is really necessary to push the Link to a higher height. The Executive alone cannot have all the knowledge, but your little contribution is valuable.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all friends for giving me this opportunity to serve this organization. Frankly, my services to OWL were the optimum I should have given. I did all I could to satisfy my conscience and be very prudent and come out with the best service I gave.

Finally let me join Albert Camus to say:

“Don’t walk behind me, I may not lead.
 Don’t walk in front of me, I may not follow.
 Just walk beside me and be my friend.”

Thanks for your attention.

 Maada Fobay
 Financial Secretary