



## **OFFICE OF HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR BO CITY COUNCIL**

**Date ; 6<sup>TH</sup> November, 2013**

### **A HUMBLE REFLECTION OF MY VISIT TO ONE WORLD LINK MEMBERS IN LEAMINGTON AND WARWICK**

**TO: Esteemed Members,**

It is such a difficult task describing how sad I am to be leaving very kind people like you. But, at least I'm glad that I'm lucky enough to have accomplished something that makes saying goodbye so hard.

When I came to know of Jane and John's visit to the Bo City Council some months ago, the very first feeling was a sense of hope. How the partnership between The One World Link and my Council could be such a closely knit of organizations that we have no other choice left. When I got here thirteen days ago, I would never have realised how connected I would be to such a warm community of people. I started having a successful journey in the most ideal and golden of circumstances, just during the welcome reception at the pump room.

I have cherished every moments spent here during this visit, be it at the land field site, around the green fields, the cold night listening to the Swaps, the town hall reception with distinguished Mayors, a deliberately followed scheduled set of meetings of my aspirations, visits to Strafford, the ancient Warwick castle, Coventry and London to the Member of parliament and in the House of Commons, nights out with OWL Members for the best of evening meal and drink, meeting with a well experienced professor in global development and economic advancement of developing nations at Warwick University, tactfully avoiding a newly found mother from pampering me and sometimes wanting to take me to places when John also wished to, the presentations at the AGM Meeting; an

unending experience sharing and learning new things in council offices of Leamington and Warwick, the meetings with the fire services and rotary representatives, meetings, with very lovely school children pushing for non violent communities and a world without chemical weapons, I will add weapons of all types. This list may not be exhausted. All I could say, my stay with you people have been a wonderful ride as a result of caring partnership. Many times I have been humbled by the kindness of your hearts.

Within this short time, We have really passed through some challenging times together, All in all it has been quite a satisfying and bright journey which we will trade for nothing. I know there are going to be ongoing journeys in the very near future too,

We need to wish ourselves the best of luck, and continue to hope that the long road to making our communities great will also be as full of accomplishments as this visit has been. Even if we will be separated by both distance and time nothing will dim the memories built humbly working together.

You have helped the people of Bo when we were going through some difficult times, and we have shared the joyous times in yours. Some people judge their lives on what they do, others on who they are, but I want us to be judged on this relationship we continue to sustain. It is enriching from just knowing you people. Tomorrow morning I will wake up with a purpose fulfilled of yet-to-be realised opportunities, and empty of your company. . . I will be in a strange limbo.

I have got enormous hope in the school children I visited during my stay. They may add vibrancy to the youth exchange programme. . They expressed sincere desire to join the link. We are obliged to follow up on this. Brian and Allan have got what it takes to see it done. Carl of Bellamy foundations have got a space in my heart. Will be pushing for his nomination as a youth Ambassador of the Bo City Council. Please encourage teachers specialized in children with learning disabilities to extend some help to such children in Bo City.

Last but not the least, I am humbled and would like to salute Managers of the corridors and silent walls of your Council buildings we always used for sincere and result focused

discussions. Members of OWL, John Knight, the mayors of your respective councils, the development planner, members of The Rotary Club here, Your Member of Parliament, Loved ones I could not mention because they are so important to us all, the hotel management, including My younger brother Johannes Mallah (Jrn). I will tell Sierra Leoneans that you love and care for them. I have summarized the issues covered during my short stay. I m proud to say I am satisfied that my schedule was substantially covered.

So. . . until the next time we gather, my very dear friends, farewell for now.

Harold L Tucker

Mayor, Bo City Council

Attached to this speech is a summary of report of what we covered during the visit

## ACTIVITIES COVERED DURING VISIT

No	ACTIVITY	CONCERNS	REMARKS
1	Arrival at Gatwick airport	Met John Archer ready to collect me to my hotel in Leamington as scheduled	Journey was exiting, Very impressed and thanks to John
2	Meetings on disability issues	Quite distinct in approach. Much more advanced in the UK with Government and Council support for all ages. Bo city Council more focused on children with disabilities with little resources or no Government support. No policy on the aged. Support to children with disabilities is to enhance better access to their schools, food and movement facilities like crutches etc	Would consider local initiatives and request help for learning and other mobility facilities. Council is prepared to contribute to shipment. A draft on policy for the aged will be highly appreciated
3	Meeting Glen and Derrick for the visit to the land field site and waste management project	Discussions very focused to the waste management project. The land field site was highly organized and very equipped. At the moment Sierra Leone does appreciate such technology, with private sector involvement	Thanks to Richard and SITA company managing the land field site' Gaps in the project have been IDENTIFIED and discussed including the purchase of bulldozer and other earth moving machines, who the private investor should be, development of a sketch of how the land field site should look like etc
4	Meeting on Health and Wellbeing	A very relevant meeting. Doctors to address mental health stress, anxiety and teachers to address special needs, reproductive health within Council's funding in Warwick District Councils. This is lacking in Sierra Leone specifically, Bo City Council. The Country does not have a mental health doctor. Ever since there was only one Doctor who is retired to providing consultancy services.	Meeting on such issues was important. Will have meetings in Bo City Council for possible health link. To further discussions with OWL on link formalities. Good news, A member of OWL is highly thinking about visiting Sierra Leone to train teachers in Bo City to address children with learning disabilities. Kindly requesting the OWL to encourage and support this project.
5	Meeting with Local, Governance planning and Economic Development officials	There were similarities in council structures. Funding support from Government will be cut as it is in Sierra Leone. A more organized tax collection approach. Environmental Planning is advanced. Linkages between the Council and the private sector for newly developed areas	Keeping in view the land reform and land planning process. This is due to land ownership and legislative and uncompleted devolution processes within the decentralization frame work
6	The Fire And Rescue Services	A very frank and successful meeting. A more organized and equipped environment. There is no fire fighting engines and well trained fire officers in Bo City. The Leamington Officials Impressed with the idea about creating a link in the areas of training and equipment support. They are ready to facilitate location of hydrant points on Bo street maps for the SALWACO Pipe borne water project.	John and Jane to make a follow up on that. John in some positive discussions already
6	The youth Meeting	No committed common ground	The schools could serve this purpose. Carl of Bellamy foundation is a spot.

No	ACTIVITY	CONCERNS	REMARKS
7	The AGM	A very organised and successful and accountable session. Display of leadership and expression of concern for the welfare of others. It is established that the relation has grown to a level of partnership with a sustainable approach.	Thanks to organizers for giving me the honour of making a statement. The attendance and apologies was admirable. Presentations were brief and articulate
8	Meeting with Rotary Reps.	Clarity around water project discussed. Identification of projects both long term and Short term sorted out. Latrines or furniture to be addressed in the short term and an all Girls school in the long term	Mayor to send pictures of the Water for Kids Project. To also send estimates for the latrines, furniture and School for girls. To revive communication between Bo Rotary and the club in Warwick.
9	Visit to schools	The schools link is one of the most successful projects. The teachers and pupils are warm about this relationship and wish to continue exchange visits. Potentials to fill in the youth gap along with students visits. Trinity school endorsed the revival of the CKC Link in Sierra Leone. In the area of development, non violence and peace promotion clubs.	Mayor and Jane to facilitate this at both ends (Sierra Leone and Leamington). Some more time on the schools for youth involvement and Schools link.
	<p data-bbox="215 905 285 930"><b>NOTE</b></p> <p data-bbox="215 936 1471 993">The visit was largely successful. The schedule covered and discussions around issues frank. All members assigned to activities responded perfectly. We are getting there. A big thank you to every body.</p>		