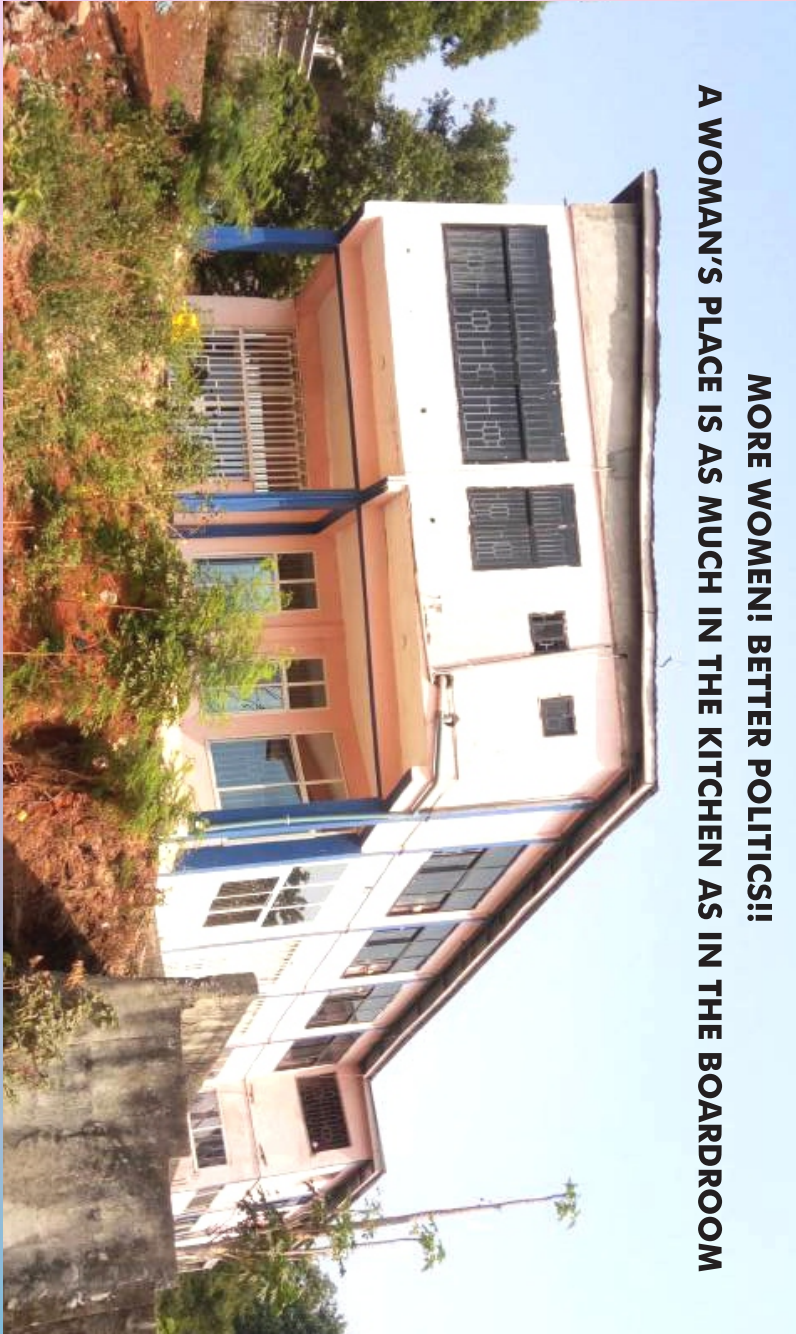


THE 50/50 GROUP'S GENDER AND WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE



A WOMAN'S PLACE IS AS MUCH IN THE KITCHEN AS IN THE BOARDROOM

MORE WOMEN! BETTER POLITICS!!



The 50/50 Group

would appreciate your presence at the

OFFICIAL OPENING

OF THE 50/50 GROUP'S GENDER AND WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE

by

HE President Ernest Bai Koroma
President of Sierra Leone

Chairperson: Angela Angwenyi

Director of Operations and Head of Broadcast - AYV Media

Keynote Speaker:

Madam Ayisha Osori

Board Chair - OSIWA

On Thursday, 25th January 2018
at 10.00 am

at The 50/50 Group's Building
50, OAU Drive, Tower Hill
Freetown, Sierra Leone

Email: fiftyfiftysierraleone@gmail.com

Website: www.fiftyfifty-sierraleone.org



ABOUT THE 50/50 GROUP OF SIERRA LEONE

In 1997, Abator Davidson, Deputy-Director of the British Council in Sierra Leone, met Lesley Abdela, activist and founder of the 300 Group for Women in Parliament in the UK. Lesley, who was also a Board Member of the British Council, briefed Abator about her work in the UK with women and politics, her work with women in Ghana and Nigeria and the 300 Group. When Abator returned to Freetown, she and Rajiv Bendre, then Director of the British Council, invited Lesley to Freetown in November 2000 to run a workshop for 40 Sierra Leonean women. The workshop was entitled "Increasing Women's Participation in Democratic Politics". At the end of the workshop, one of the participants, Dr Nemata Majeks-Walker was inspired to set up a group similar to the 300 Group and began working with colleagues to set up the 50/50 Group.

On November 30 2001, just six months before the 2002 general election, the Group was formally launched by the HE Dr. Ahmed Tejan Kabbah at an impressive and symbolic ceremony in the Sierra Leone House of Parliament. The Keynote Address was delivered by Emeritus Professor, Dr. Eldred Durosimi Jones.

That same day, the Group's members staged a mock parliamentary debate in the well of the House, on the need for 50/50 representation of men and women in parliament. Nemata led the Group's lobbying work on equality between women and men in politics and public life as its first President. Since then, the 50/50 Group has devoted its energies to empowering women for participation in public life through training and advocacy.

OUR GENDER AND WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE

Training of female political aspirants, candidates and other women in leadership skills has always been the focus of the 50/50 Group, and we have had considerable success in getting more women interested in the electoral process and governance. Because of our long-term commitment to women's empowerment and as part of our goal for long-term stability, it was imperative for the Group to have a permanent base and training institute to expand its training capabilities for women. We responded to this need by developing the piece of land donated by the Government in recognition of our work. With an initial grant of \$125,000 from the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) in Ghana, construction started in 2010. With the help of some reputable local business institutions and a few public-spirited individuals including the Government, Mercury, Samir Hassaniyeh, LEOCEM, Union Trust Bank, Hotel Bamoi, the British High Commission, Dr. Adonis Aboud, Dr. Sanpha Koroma, The Nigerian High Commission, DSTV, among others.

Today, we are officially opening the first floor and basement hall of the building, which will be the headquarters for our offices and for conducting trainings and seminars in line with our main objective of providing training to women 'across the spectrum.' Our goal is to help women understand their legal rights and to achieve positions of leadership from the village and community level right up to the highest office in the country. When additional funds become available to complete the other two floors, the second floor will provide a safe and affordable hostel with 30 beds for trainees from the rural areas. The third floor will be used for our 24-hour radio station and additional training and conference facilities.

Programme



1. Prayers
 - Muslim – Haja Alimatu Abdullah
 - Christian – Dr. Nana Pratt
2. Welcome & Introduction of Chair: Dr. Fatou Taqi - President: The 50/50 Group
3. Chairperson's Opening Remarks: Angela Angwenyi - Director of Operations and Head of Broadcast - AYV Media
4. Statement from the Main Funder: Theo Sowa - Executive Director, African Women's Development Fund
5. Solidarity Statements:
 - i. Hon. Isata Kabia - Minister of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs
 - ii Dr. Mary Okumu: - Director, U.N. Women
 - iii. Mrs. Haddijatou Jallow: - Executive Chairperson Environment Protection Agency
 - iv. Simon Ingram-Hill: - Director, British Council
 - v. Thynn Thynn Hlaing - Country Director, OXFAM
 - vi. Mrs. Jeanne Kamara - Country Director - Christian Aid
 - vii. Mohamed Sillah - Country Director - ActionAid
6. The Story of The Gender & Women's Leadership Training Institute - Dr. Nemata Majeks-Walker: Founder/First President, 50/50 Group
7. Introduction of Keynote Speaker - Dr. Aisha Fofana Ibrahim: Immediate Past-President
8. Keynote Address - Madam Ayisha Osori - Board Chair - OSIWA
Topic - Women's Political Advancement as the Engine for Sierra Leone's Development
9. Pledges for the construction of the 2nd and 3rd floors - Haja Mariama Fofana: Past President, 50/50
10. Opening of the Building - H. E. Ernest Bai Koroma - President of Sierra Leone
11. Vote of Thanks - Dr. Fredline M'Cormack-Hale - Secretary, The 50/50 Group

CELEBRATION LUNCHEON