



Kissi Bendu Development

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

DONATION AREAS:

SCHOOL MATERIALS

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

LIBRARIES, OFFICE EQUIPMENT

- MISCELLANEOUS

*New York State
Registered Nonprofit
Organization to help
the Kissi Community
in Sierra Leone, on the
west coast of Africa*

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February 5th 2013

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: LETTER OF APPEAL FOR DONATIONS

Brief History of the Kissi Tribe of the Kissi Bendu Community, in Sierra Leone – West Africa

The Kissi are some of the poor, ancient, and forgotten tribes in the forested region in northeastern Sierra Leone, with their neighbors in Liberia and Guinea—all living along the banks of the Makona River. The civil wars in Sierra Leone and in Liberia; devastated these natives in such a way that urgent help is needed in all areas of human development. They lost their loved ones, their domestic animals, and their homes. The roads have not been paved since the end of the civil war especially in Sierra Leone in 2002.

These natives have never benefited from a modern clinic or hospital, and their young women die miserably in childbirth. Their school-age children sit on cold, hard floors in dilapidated schools that also lack sports equipment. As the first Kissi storyteller in the Makona Book Club (www.makonabooks.com), a non-profit organization, it is my duty to introduce you to one of the forgotten tribes of the twenty-first century.

Intent of the Makona Book Club, Inc.

This letter, written on behalf of the Makona Book Club, Inc., seeks to promote education and development for the people of the Kissi Bendu community in northeastern Sierra Leone. This program provides a platform to spread awareness about these critical needs and also gives them a unique opportunity to showcase their hidden talents.

For the physical and emotional healing of these poor, vulnerable people—especially the children of the Kissi Bendu community—this program is timely. By helping this program through financial support, we are doing a good deed for society.

With generous support from the public, NGOs, and donors like you, the Makona Book Club, Inc. continues its community programs serving the Kissi Bendu community school children, the hungry and homeless, as well as providing

educational activities for the children of all ages. Your generous donation will be listed in our webpage and catalogue for distribution to our friends and members in Kissi Bendu and the Diaspora.

We are in a tumultuous time, and surely there are many demands on your kindness and generosity. Nevertheless, we hope that you will consider our request, especially now when the needs are so great.

Makona Book Club, Inc.
PROPOSED AREAS OF CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION

Please support the Makona Book Club's Fund-Raising Project with a generous contribution to any of the following areas:

School Materials: Pens, pencils, rulers, erasers, copy books, school bags, chalk, etc...

Sports Materials: Soccer balls, volleyballs /nets, boots, jerseys, basketballs, etc...

Kissi Bendu Teachers' Union: teacher development programs

Libraries: In the three Kissi Chiefdom headquarters in Sierra Leone: Koindu and Kangama in Kissi Teng, Dia in Kissi Kama, and Buedu in Kissi Tongi

Used Clothes: All sizes and for males and females (men and women, boys and girls)

Toiletries: bathing and laundry Soap, tooth brushes, toothpaste, and towels, for the old, young mothers, and other elders

Office Equipment: computers, paper, printers, computer printer ink, computer tables and chairs, and more...

Miscellaneous contribution (applied to area(s) of need at the discretion of the Makona Book Club, Inc., administration to help in other cultural programs in the Kissi Bendu Community).

**PICTURES OF THE DEVASTATION LEFT BY THE CIVIL WAR
IN KOINDU- KISSI TENG CHIEFDOM, SIERRA LEONE – WEST AFRICA
A VIDEO CAN BE WATCHED AT – *THE KOINDU PROJECT***

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**These pictures were offered as a courtesy by Dr. Sylvia Blyden a
journalist, now an Executive Assistant to H.E. Ernest Bai Koroma,
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone**

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A lone girl child walks along an abandoned road in Koindu. The Kissi areas of Sierra Leone have one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancies and lowest rates of girl child education in the entire sub-region



This is one of the beautiful stonework mansions of Koindu town, Kissi Kingdom, which were razed during RUF rebellion. This one shows a huge tree growing right out of the foyer area of the mansion. The stone work is still intact but the foundation has burst open from the earth over the last 21 years popping out huge trees; Time to rebuild Koindu is NOW!



This shows another house which has been overcome by the forest. After 20 odd years of neglect, nature has taken over and is growing huge trees within what used to be habitats for human beings.



Goats and Sheep graze around the green vegetation of damaged houses left bare without windows, doors or roofing.



Abandoned by its owner for 20 years now; totally over-run with green vegetation



Another beautiful Koindu home and you can imagine that someone lives here



Another beautiful Koindu home razed to nothing and a little boy stands gazing at it

SPECIAL REPORT

In Sierra Leone, Kissi Teng wants Gov't to Approve Community School

By Augustine Samba
Sep 13, 2013, 17:10

Chiefdom authorities and residents of Dia town in the Kissi Kama chiefdom, Kailahun district have called on the Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to kindly approve the community school situated in Dia town.

The residents who spoke to this reporter who was in the district on investigative tour over the weekend expressed their dismay over what they referred to as 'total neglect' of the school by the Ministry of Education Science and Technology.



Cross section of local authorities and school teachers pose with Augustine Samba in front of the school

According to them, the Government Junior Secondary School in Dia town was constructed in 2007 under the Sababu Education Project and that since then, neither the school nor its teachers have been approved by government.

Principal of the school, Tamba Samuel Jabba explained that the school has eight volunteer teachers assisting in teaching the pupils all the relevant subjects in the school. He said currently there are over three hundred pupils enrolled in the school, stating that in the 2011/2012 Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE), the school performed remarkably well as its pupils came out with the best result for the entire Kailahun district.

Mr. Jabba further revealed that the school registered seventy eight candidates for the exams in that academic year and seventy three of them got the requirement with a clear pass mark to be promoted to the Senior Secondary School (SSS).

Town Chief of Dia, Augustine Tamba Saffa said the government in 2007 constructed the Boyed Baptism Primary School and the Dia Government Secondary School in the township and months later it approved the Boyed Baptism Primary School neglecting the Dia Government Secondary School.

Paramount Chief of Kissi Kama, Tamba Okeke Jabba also confirmed that the Dia Government Secondary School is performing exceptionally well in its academic work. He said they as local authorities in the chiefdom have done all they could to get the ministry to approve the school but that all their attempts proved futile to date.

According to him, the school authorities and its teachers are now depending deeply on resources contributed by parents, pupils and local authorities to meet the daily cost of running the school.

He encouraged the government to speed up the process of approving the school for it not to collapse.

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In Sierra Leone, Yenga Residents in Dire Need of Schools

By Augustine Samba
Sep 19, 2013, 17:16

Residents of Yenga community in the Kissi Teng Chiefdom, Kailahun District are in dire need of at least a primary and secondary schools in the community. Yenga had been deprived of basic facilities since its occupation by Guinean forces for the past decade.

Since the community gained perpetual freedom few months ago, residents have been calling on the Government of Sierra Leone to provide them with both primary and secondary schools and other basic facilities such as health centers, safe drinking water, electricity and infrastructural developments in their community.



The town Chief, old Grany Finda Nyuma, Augustine Samba and some of the pupils

These requests were made known to Awareness Times during an investigative tour conducted by one of our reporters who was recently in the district.

Town Chief of Legendary village, Mr. Tamba Nyuma briefed our reporter on the difficulties they faced as residents of the community, noting that they have gone for years without enjoying these basic facilities.

According to him, since the Guinean military troops occupied their community for close to fifteen years, there had been no development in that part of the country. He said further that the population of Yenga before the occupation of the Guinean troops was over two hundred but that when the troops came and started terrorizing them most people migrated leaving the current population below fifty.



The school under construction

The chief revealed that since the return of normalcy in the township, most of these residents have returned and its population has increased, leading to acute shortages in several basic amenities.

The town chief expressed appreciation to President Koroma for his leadership role in returning Yenga to Sierra Leone from the Guineans. He appealed for government's support in providing the township with at least a primary and secondary school and some of the aforementioned facilities.

Also speaking to this reporter was All People's Congress (APC) Councilor for Ward 10 in the Kissi Teng chiefdom, Emmanuel Sakilla who said the people of Yenga have done all in their capacity to get a school but all their attempts have proved futile. He joined his people's call for government to come to their aid and save their children from becoming school dropouts in the near future.

Administration:

Offices will be opened in Freetown, and in Koindu, Sierra Leone, West Africa. The goal of this donation is to provide support for all expenses related to the Makona Book Club's Educational and Development Projects for the children and people of the Kissi Bendu community in northeastern Sierra Leone.

Funds designated for the Makona Book Club, Inc. are administered by the founder/president and executives for the direct beneficiaries in the Kissi Bendu community, in northeastern Sierra Leone. All work is done on charitable basis. The club is opened to all sons, and daughters, and friends, of the Kissi Bendu Community in Sierra Leone, and all those interested in charitable work in the world.

Board of Directors:

Michael Fayia Kallon (Founder/ CEO)
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Hon. Sahr Tengbeh – Freetown, Sierra Leone

Hon. Charles Pascal Tolno – Conakry, Guinea

Hon. Victor Traore - Conakry, Guinea, (West Africa)

Let's come together to help those in need.

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