

repatriated us to our rightful region of origin — the Southern Hemisphere. This

development. Here, I will put roads into three broad categories — air route, sea

gullies everywhere. Yet the fewer tarred roads have killing potholes

Written by Dr. Juana F. Moïwo
David Marcus Margai

KISIDO Launched

By **Mustapha Juana**

The Kissi Sustainable Development Organization (KISIDO), formed primarily to create unity among the Kissis at home and abroad was on Saturday October 20th 2018 officially launched at the Miatta Conference center in Freetown.

According to the chairman of KISIDO, Moses Sahr Fayia the idea was conceived seven years ago following a radio discussion programme where many ethnic groups used to broadcast in their native languages. He said he saw that as an opportunity to start a radio teaching show where listeners will have the opportunity to learn their language and learn how to call different things in their Kissi language.

“It was against this background that I, Moses Fayia (aka king Ngolie) and other committed and dedicated Kissi individuals started Kissi Bendu Radio programme in 2011 to create awareness about the problems surrounding the Kissi community,” Chairman Fayia recalled. Outlining some of KISIDO’s achievements, Mr. Fayia said during the outbreak of Ebola he engaged the leaders including late town chief Moses Foryoh through phone to give updates on improvement and challenges of the health workers within the Kissi Kingdom. He said they have also used the platform to interact with their traditional leaders as well as elders. He said WhatsApp group with the aim of sourcing financial support to help pay for airtime in radio which he said brought together the Kissi people in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia and the Diasporas. As the group expands, according Mr. Fayia, it was transformed into a nongovernmental organization in 2017 under its present name which has

already attracted membership in the three countries.

According to the chairman, in spite of the significant contributions the Kissis have made towards national development, they remained underdeveloped.

“KISIDO as an organization, is a pressure group that lobbies on behalf of the Kissi community and implement development projects within Kissi basin (Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia). Therefore it’s our responsibility to protect all KISIDO property,” the Chairman insists. Formerly launching KISIDO, the guest speaker Mrs. Victoria Ann Sandi, Senior Assistant Secretary in the Office of the Vice President also said the organization was established not only to create unity among the Kissis but also to cushion national unity and democratic values of the country.

Giving a brief history of Kissis, Mrs. Sandi said they settled in triangular axis of West Africa in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea, and have made ‘impressive and

lasting marks’ for which posterity shall ever remember them.

She said the Kissis are endowed with fertile lands and vegetation which are used for farming and have contributed immensely to food production and cash crop farming thus earning the country foreign forex.

She also recalled the significant feats some traditional leaders have made and hopes founders of KISIDO will emulate the values of those leaders. “The reason behind the decline of Kissi land and the urgent need to reinvent her past glories have inspired the formation of KISIDO,” Madam Sandi said. She told the organization that there is light at the end of the tunnel and appealed to its leadership and entire membership to put the ‘ugly specter’ of their history behind them. She summoned the spirit of bravery and courage, turn a new page and work constructively with the government under the New Direction agenda which is stipulated for the socioeconomic renewal of our beloved country.



KISIDO Chairman Moses Sahr Fayia making statement

The KISIDO representative Guinea branch commended the pioneers for making the occasion a successful one and promised to inform other Kissi people in Guinea and however called on members to do more in order to promote the Kissi tribe in the country.

The Commissioner of the Anti -Corruption Commission, Francis Ben Kaifala said the launching of KISIDO is supposed to bring everybody together, adding that as years go by they will develop the Kissi land, although he said they are the minority tribe in the country.

Vice Chancellor of FBQ, Sahr Foday lauded the organizers for their brilliant idea for bringing the Kissi people together and promised to support in his own little way to ensure the organization achieved their targeted projects.

Earlier the launching was climaxed by the exhibition of the Kissi cultural items, pledges of the membership formed high point of the launching while Dr. Micheal Nicolas Hinga chaired the occasion.



Guest speaker (c) flanked by KISIDO members