

ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY OF NURSING IN SIERRA LEONE

On this day, 19th February 2022, St. John of God School of Nursing launched as UNIMAK Campus under the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences. Bro. Dr. Michael Koroma has been appointed as the Provost of the campus.

The ceremony was attended by His Lordship Bishop Natalio Paganelli, the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Makeni, the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer(CNMO) from the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, the Vice Chancellor, Director of Academic Affairs, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences, and other authorities from the University of Makeni. Other guests included the District Medical officer from the Port Loko district and other key stakeholders, Brothers of St. John of God, Priest and religious from various congregations, students and staff.

During the ceremony, the official communications from the National Accreditation Commission granting approval to the University of Makeni fit to operate a new Campus as St. John of God Campus, in Lunsar; and also the appointment of the new Provost of the Campus. The Chancellor of the University made the official declaration of the transformation of the St. John of God Catholic School of Nursing becoming now the “St. John of God Campus, UniMak’, Lunsar.

This Institution was established and accredited by the regulatory body of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation in October 2007 to train Community Health Nurses and had graduated over 600 State Enrolled Community Health Nurses; and in 2017, the Institution gained accreditation to commence training State Registered Nurses through a combined efforts of several partners. The Institution remains the property of the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God with a signed partnership between the Order and the Diocese of Makeni to operate as a campus of the university. This kind of partnership is of mutual agreement between the diocese of Makeni, the leadership of the St. Augustine Province of Africa and the University authorities to operate as an autonomous campus managed by the Hospitaller Order representative as per requirement of the University.

The future of this new status is to create an equal opportunity for candidates who choose the Institution for training to meet the university education demanded by the regulatory body by law. The new status will also open window for training candidates in areas of specialties with undergraduate degrees. It is only through the University that new additional programmes could be initiated such as Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Diploma in Anaesthesia, Diploma in Dentist Technology for nurses, etc.. At the moment, we have agreed to commence the BSc in Nursing and Diploma in Anaesthesia.

There is a call for more partnership with Institutions that would like to contribute to human capital development of Human resources for Health in Sierra Leone. Feel free to join us to serve humanity by building the human resource capacity.