

## SOME BASIC FACTS ABOUT MR. ALPHA O.TIMBO,

Alpha Osman Timbo was born on the 27 April 1961 in a small town called Rokulan, in Sanda Tendered Chiefdom, former Bombali District now Karena district, Northern Province of the Republic of Sierra Leone. The town got its name from a forest, west of present day Rokulan. The forest was called “Gbonkoh Kulan” as it was inhabited by Gorillas. Hence, the themne word for Gorilla is “Konkokulan”. His parents are Late Minkailu Timbo and Late Haja Adiatu Barrie-Timbo.

- 1 He is a Fullah by tribe.
- 2 He attended the Bombali District Education Committee (BDEC) Primary School in Rokulan (1967-1973/4) under the leadership of late H.B. Jalloh.
- 3 Attended the St. Francis Secondary School in Makeni up to Form Five (5) (1974-1979) under the then leadership of late Mr. R. A Kanu and lived at 23 Makama Road, Makeni.
- 4 Transferred to Ahmadiyya Muslim Secondary School (AMSS) in Freetown (1980/81) under the leadership of Alhaji M.P. Bayoh, Ex-Sierra Leone High Commissioner to the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- 5 Moved to Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone-USL (1981-1985) under the leadership of Professor Eldred Jones and late Professor Cyril Patrick Foray, Ex-Sierra Leone High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History, Law and Philosophy. During those days, Timbo actively participated in the politics of the institution. He became Deputy Minister of Education and later deputy Speaker of the Students Representative Council (SRC).He served as publicity secretary of the FBC Muslim Jamaat and Public Relations Officer of the Sierra Leone National Union Of Muslim Students (SLNUMS) to which he was a founding member. This was under the leadership of Imam Alhaji Momodu Koroma and Alhaji Alpha Kamara, then of MMTC respectively.
- 6 Did his postgraduate Diploma in Education (1986), under the distinguished leadership of late Professor Newman Smart, who was also Proprietor of the Cardinal Educational Enterprises.
- 7 Taught for almost Seven (7) years at the Sierra Leone Muslim Women Educational Institute, Kankaylay Secondary School Kissy, Ahmadiyya Muslim Secondary School, Freetown and the Cardinal Educational Enterprises in Freetown.
- 8 After almost Sixteen (16) years, Timbo returned to F.B.C-USL to pursue an LLB

**(Honours) Degree course, which he successfully completed.**

**9 Attended the Sierra Leone Law School under the abled leadership of Professor Tuboku Metzger and successfully passed and called to the Bar in October 2006.**

**10 Appointed Secretary General, Sierra Leone Teachers Union, (SLTU) in 1990 a position he held for Ten (10) years until he was appointed Minister of Labour, Social Security and Industrial Relations.**

**11 During his tenure as Secretary General of SLTU, Timbo together with Mban Kabu as President and others championed the Liberation Movement of Teachers and the Union. Together they transformed the SLTU to a more formidable organization that took its rightful position in society and the International Trade Union Movement. Among the reforms introduced in the union and the teaching profession are:**

**i) Championed the cause for the issuance of a Collective Bargaining Certificate (CBC) for the Union in 1993 and negotiated the first Collective Agreement between the Employers of Teachers of Sierra Leone (ETSL) and the Sierra Leone Teachers Union (SLTU) that ensured the improvement in terms and conditions of service of teachers. This was done with the support of Late George Strang of the Manitoba Teachers Society, Canada, who was then a special Advisor to the Canadian Teachers Federation (CTF)**

**ii) He undertook a number of development Projects for the SLTU such as the Building of Rogaland House, the SLTU Head Quarters completed in 1991, and SLTU's Regional Office in Bo completed in 2002 and left the advanced stage of the building of Hotel 5-10,in Freetown.Today,SLTU has structures all over the Regions of Sierra Leone;**

**12 Then, Timbo had a formidable team in the persons of,**

**Messrs: Mban Kabu, Mohamed Boye Jalloh-Jamboria, Alfred Veenod Fullah, Rashid Koroma, late Sam Goba, Abdulai Koroma, Victor S. Kabia, Festus E. Minah, Late Wusu D. Samura Abu B.Thoronka;, Davidson A. Kuyateh, Alieu Deen Conteh, Morris S. Conteh, Augustine G. Karim, James A. Lahai, Rashid A. Bah, to name but a few.**

**1 Introduced a number of Professional and Trade Union programs that enhanced the capacity of the leaders of the Union and its members.**

**2 Founding member of the West African Teacher Leaders Training Project at the Sir Charles Centre in Winneba, Ghana sponsored by LO-FTF-DLF (Denmark) and Education International (EI) with headquarters in Brussels. This provides various training programs for West African Teachers Leaders at all levels of their organizations.**

- 3 Jointly developed the book “Understanding your Union”, first produced by Hon. Emmanuel A. Fatoma, former Secretary General of SLTU and team and also developed the “Hand Book for School Representatives”.**
- 4 Promoted the SLTU Study Circle Project in collaboration with the Norwegian Union of Teachers (NL) under the leadership of Anneli Askola, International Secretary, NORSK LAERERLAG (NL) and Karl Jorgen Haakonseth, Project Consultant, NL.**
- 5 Strengthened the Sierra Leone Teachers Union/Canadian Teachers Federation (SLTU/CTF) Project overseas programs that enhanced the professional capacity of our school administrators and the vast majority of our untrained and unqualified teachers. This was done in collaboration with the Canadian Teachers Federation under the leadership of Bob Barker and Nicole Patenaude. The late Dr Tom Dugba then head of department Njala University of Sierra Leone and Mrs Lappia then Director of the Institute of Education were the counterpart course Directors.**
- 6 On the promotion of the cause of women, he was one of the two males in the Board of promotion of women in West Africa that paved the way for women in West African Teachers Organisations to occupy positions of President and Secretary General as in cases of Salimata Doumbia in Côte D’Ivoire, Irene Adanusa in Ghana and Asibi Napoe in Togo, who is now the Chief Coordinator of Education International in Africa.**
- 7 Reactivated the SLTU/CTF Bursaries for women in education programs. This enabled a lot of our female teachers and daughters of teachers in the Sierra Leone teaching service to pursue higher education.**
- 8 Served as a member of the Board of Education in Sierra Leone that advises the Minister of Education on policy matters.**
- 9 Served as a member of the 6-3-3-4 Implementation Committee.**
- 10 Served as a member of the National Committee of the West African Examinations Council for over Six (6) years. This committee formulates policies and approves programs and budget for the National Office.**
- 11 He also served in the Committee of Aptitude Test in the West African Examinations Council.**
- 12 He participated in the merger talks between the International Federation of Free Teachers Union (IFFTU) and the World Confederation of Organisations of the Teaching Profession (WCOTP) to form Education International (EI).**
- 13 Founding member (participant) of Education International (EI) in Stockholm, Sweden in 1993 which is the largest International Trade Secretariat of Teachers in the world.**

- 14 First African to win the open seat and became a member of the Executive Board of EI. This position he held up to the time he took up appointment as Minister of Labour, Social Security and Industrial Relations.**
- 15 He served as Executive Board member of Education International, African Regional Committee (EIRAC) for over Five (5) years this was under the abled leadership of Brother Thomas A. Bediako who was chief coordinator for Africa.**
- 16 At the Sierra Leone Labour Congress (SLLC), Timbo became the Deputy Secretary General and acted as Secretary General for about four(4) years when Mr. Kandeh B. Yilla was on secondment to the then African American Labour Centre (AALC). During his tenure in office, he undertook the extension of the SLLC building at Wallace Johnson Street, in Freetown. At that time Brother Glen Lesak was head of African Affairs with special reference to English speaking countries.**
- 17 He also represented the African Region in the International Confederation of Free Trade Union, African Regional Organization (ICFTU/AFRO) up to the time he took up appointment as Minister. This was during the leadership of Brother Andrew Kailembo.**
- 18 He was also a substitute member of the ILO Governing body, representing the workers of the world (Workers Group). Also, a position he held up to his appointment as Minister. At this body, they formulated policies, including ILO Conventions and Recommendations that govern the world of work, the promotion of good governance and Social Justice. This was during the Director General ship of Mr. Joan Somavia.**
- 19 Undertook studies in the structure, functions and workings of the International Labour Organisation (ILO)**
- 20 He spent over Eight (8) years of uninterrupted service in the National and International Trade Union Movement. Has worked with most Donor and International Financial Institutions like the World Bank, African Development Bank, and other international development Agencies such as DFID, NORAD, CIDA, DANIDA etc., and has great negotiations skills that has enabled him garner support from their International Cooperating Partners.**
- 21 As Human Rights Activist and in the promotion of Democracy, Human and Trade Union Rights, he is the principal founder of the Civil Society Movement (CSM) and served as its first spokesperson and Chief Coordinator. Has worked with Civic Organizations like the Sierra Leone Petty Traders Association. The Sierra Leone professional Drivers Association, the Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD), Civic Development Unit (CDU), Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), Campaign for good Governance (CGG) and the National Commission for Democracy and Human Rights (NCDHR) and the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ) in their drive in the Restoration of Democracy in Sierra Leone.**
- 22 He worked with great Institutions like the TUC in UK and Ghana, EI, in Brussels**

OOATU in Ghana, ACILS in the United States the AFLCIO in the United States of America and ILO in Geneva which are all critical institutions in our development aspirations.

- 23 When the Junior Officers from the Sierra Leone Armed Forces overthrew the APC Government and set up the National Provisional Ruling Council (NPRC) under the leadership of Captain Valentine Ezegrab Melvin Strasser, Timbo was called upon to serve but declined from working with a military regime.
- 24 In their quest to achieve peace and ensure the restoration of Democracy, Timbo and others pursued various pronged approaches including the establishment of the National Committee for the Consolidation of Peace (NCCP) headed by Ex-President, SLTU, Mr Mban Kabu and Mr Victor Reider, who later became Hon. Member of Parliament and Publicity Secretary, SLPP.
- 25 Under his leadership, SLTU undertook the Voter Registration Exercise for the 1996 General Elections and provided adequate personnel that led to the successful conduct of the 1996 elections. This was under the abled leadership of Dr. James Jonah as chairman of the Interim National Electoral Commission INEC, during this period Timbo had the opportunity to work with Professor Kandeh then at statistics office, now Chairman Moyamba District council.
- 26 Again, after the 1996 Elections, Timbo was invited to serve the SLPP administration but declined on the grounds that there was a lot of unfinished vital tasks in the SLTU.
- 27 In 1997 when some members of the Armed Forces of Sierra Leone toppled the SLPP government and invited the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) headed by the late Foday Saybana Sankoh together formed the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) headed by Johnny Paul Koroma. Timbo together with the late Hassan M. Barrie (then President of Sierra Leone Labour Congress and Chairman of Civil Society Movement) were called upon to serve but declined.
- 28 Instead, they championed the fight for the Restoration of Democracy. Together with late Uriah Q.H. Davies, then vice President of Sierra Leone Labour Congress (SLLC), Muctarr B. Williams Deputy Secretary General SLLC, K.B.J. Conteh Of the SLLC,,Mr.Abu Bakar sillah,then President of the Sierra Leone professional Drivers Association and later president of the Amalgamated Transport workers unon,Mr,Ibrahim Kamara,then Secretary General of the Sierra Leone Petty Traders Association, Max Conteh, Sulaiman Tarawallie,, Davidson A. Kuyateh now Secretary General of the Sierra Leone Teachers Union, Augustine G. Karim, Morris S Conteh ,, Aliou Deen Conteh, and James A.Lahai, to name but only a few, the democratically elected SLPP led Government was restored,
- 29 Timbo worked closely with other Civic Organizations like the Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD) headed by mr. Abu Brima, Civic Development Unit (CDU) headed by mr. Alithur Freeman, Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) headed by Mr. Abdulai Caulker (Avayama), Campaign for Good

Governance, headed by Mrs. Zainab Hawa Bangura, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, former employee of the United Nations, the National Commission of Democracy and Human Rights then headed by Dr. Kadi Sesay, former Deputy National Chairman and Leader of the SLPP and vice president candidate SLPP, 2007 and the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists especially For the people, headed by Paul Kamara, Standard Times under Karim Sei and Amaraya and Philip Neville, Lansana Fofana of BBC and Radio 98.1 then manned by Hannah Fullah, former Sierra Leone High Commissioner to Ghana H.E Alie E. Bangura (AKA Abdul Hakim), and Dr. Julius Spencer of Premier Media and Dixon Rogers then Senior Mines Monitoring Officer in Kono, together with the International Community, Ex-President Kabbah, Ambassador John Leigh in the USA, Ambassador Joe Blell then Sierra Leone High Commissioner to the Federal Republic of Nigeria with oversight in Ghana and Lome,Togo, former Vice President Solomon E. Berewa, late Sam Hinga Norman and his team, Ecomog, and the British Forces were able to achieve the restoration of the democratically elected government of President Kabbah.

- 30 He participated in the Negotiations in Lomè, leading to the signing of the Lomè Peace Accord/Agreement that helped usher in lasting peace in Sierra Leone. He championed the process of popularising the Lomè peace Agreement to enhance its acceptance by the people of Sierra Leone. In the United States of America he presented the Agreement to the Sierra Leonean Community including international development partners at the Howard University where it was accepted overwhelmingly, Ambassador John Leigh and one Mr. Silati Dabo were in attendance.
- 31 As part of President Kasbah's Government's commitment to implement the Lomè Peace Accord, Timbo was appointed, Minister of Labour Social Security and Industrial Relations. A position he held up to 2007.
- 32 As Minister of Labour, Timbo transformed the Ministry of Labour to a more formidable Ministry that took its rightful position in the entire government machinery.
- 33 Amongst his principal achievements in government was the establishment of the Industrial Court in Sierra Leone. This facilitates the enforcement of the Labour Laws, promotes Human and Trade Union Rights, and ensures to a large extent the prevalence and promotion of Social Justice in the work place. Hence, there is an improvement in the Industrial Relations System in Sierra Leone.
- 34 He also established the National Social Security and Insurance Trust (NASSIT) and the National Social Safety Net. Before his exit in 2007.NASSIT has constructed all its Regional Secretariats, Introduced the Real estate Development Programme with Regimanuel Grey in Ghana, established Sierra Block concrete products factory and Set up the Home Finance Company etc.

- 35 Introduced the Employment Overseas Program where many skilled youths are provided with jobs in other parts of the World.**
- 36 At the Social front, he has worked with various professional and Civic Organizations and a member of the great Football Family that has great Social Mobilization Potential.**
- 37 He served as Mighty Blackpool's Secretary General for a good number of years with Mr. Bassie Bangura as its Chairman.**
- 38 He served as Chairman of Mighty Blackpool for almost eight years**
- 39 He has served as the Chairman of the Sierra Leone Football Association SLFA. National Premier League Board in Sierra Leone (2009-2010).**
- 40 In terms of service to the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP);**
- 41 He has provided consistent and unbroken services to the Party. Since he became a member of the Party, he has served as Deputy National Secretary General in various administrations of the Party.**
- 42 He served the administration of late Pa Maigore Kallon and Dr. Prince Harding as National Chairman and National Secretary respectively together with Hon. Emmanuel O. Grant as Regional Chairman-West, late Hon. S.B Marah as Regional Chairman-North, Late Hon. Mohamed B. Daramy as Regional Chairman-East and Late Ambassador Foday Sesay as Regional Chairman-South.**
- 43 He also served the administration of Dr. S.S Banya as National Chairman and Dr. Prince Harding as National Secretary General again together with the same personalities mentioned above as Regional vice chairmen.**
- 44 He worked with late Alhaji U.N.S Jah as National Chairman and Jacob Jusu Saffa as secretary general together with Alhaji Cole as Regional vice Chairman-West, Mohamed A. Sandi as Regional vice Chairman-East, Alhaji Y.D Kamara as Regional vice Chairman-North and Dr. Momodu B. Yillah as Regional vice Chairman-South.**
- 45 He finally served the Party with John Oponjo Benjamin and J.J Saffa as National Chairman and Leader and Secretary General respectively together with Lansana Fadika as Regional Chairman-West, Ambassador Patrick Foyah as Regional Chairman-East, Dr. Alfred Bobson Sesay as Regional Chairman-North and Brother Joseph Maada Kpullun as Regional Chairman-South.**

**Timbo wish to respectfully, refer you to all the above personalities about his contributions to the Party during their various period of tenure in office. Overall, he can proudly say that he worked for the SLPP and also benefitted from the SLPP.**

**Currently, he is a private legal Practitioner in the law firm of Halloway and Partners**

**Timbo is an honorary citizen of Kentucky, Louisville, United States of America and a graduate of CTF John Thompson Fellowship Program in Canada.**

**Timbo is married to Mrs. Isatu Dainkeh-Timbo and blessed with four (4) children namely; Minkailu, Tigidankay Rassie, Alhaji Abdulai Bapateh and Adiatu.**