

## **Statement of the Board Chairman UBA Sierra Leone**

### **Mr. Abdul Sheku Kargbo**

11<sup>th</sup> October 2021

#### **UBA Foundation 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition National Essay Competition October-November 2021**

- The Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education, Dr. Davide Moinina Sengeh
- Colleagues on the UBA Board
- The MD/CEO UBA Sierra Leone, Usman Isiaka
- The ED, Mohamed Samoura
- Officials from the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE)
- Teachers and Pupils from various schools
- Members of the Press- Good afternoon.

I am delighted to represent members of the UBA Sierra Leone Board on the official launch of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the UBA Foundation National Essay Competition.

The UBA Sierra Leone Board of Directors constitutes of nine (9) Members with six (6), Sierra Leonean including myself as the Chairman. The multitude of local directors is part of the UBA Group's strategic focus on domesticating the governance pattern, products, and services of the bank to meet the local

requirements of the host economy in all its 20 presence countries in Africa.

Essentially as a board, we provide strategic direction to the overall business goals of the bank.

Last year, the UBA Foundation National Essay Competition event was a huge success. The bank could not have done it better without the Ministry's support. As you may be aware, the bank has credited the various accounts of the last three winners with a total sum of Le 100,000,000 (\$10,000) grant scholarship for their tertiary education, and the 12 Finalists including the winners were given a brand-new laptop towards their educational research and other academic activities.

As a board, we remain committed in supporting the Management of UBA Sierra Leone in actualizing the bank's Corporate social responsibilities on the following areas: Education, Environment, Economic Empowerment and Special Projects. I was also privileged not too long ago, to participate in the distribution of books to various secondary schools.

United Bank for Africa Sierra Leone continues to set the pace in the financial arena, expanding our products and services, branch network and establishing long-lasting business relationships that benefits all stakeholders within our business environment.

To conclude, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Minister and his team at the Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education on the strides the Ministry has been making in bringing to fruition the President's vision in providing free quality Education for the children in Sierra Leone. As Victor Hugo states:

“He who opens a school door, closes a prison.”

To my colleagues on the Board, thank you for your selflessness, guidance, and support.

Thank you very much to the MD/CEO and his hardworking Team for making this second call of the UBA Foundation National Essay Competition a reality.

I want to express my gratitude to all the teachers here present. Thank you, sirs, and mas, for continuing to educate and inspire a new generation.

To you students, education is power. It is vital. It opens the mind, expands it, and allows you to improve your life in so many ways. As Malcolm X says:

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”

Thank you for attention.