



Makeni is the largest city and the economic center of the Northern Province of Sierra Leone. The city is the capital and administrative center of Bombali District; and is also the fourth largest city in Sierra Leone by population (after Freetown, Bo and Kenema). The city is home to the University of Makeni (Unimak), the largest private university in Sierra Leone, and is widely known for producing some of Sierra Leone's most gifted students. Makeni is also the fastest growing populated and business city. Its population is ethnically diverse, though the Temne people make up the majority. The Krio language is used as the primary language among the different ethnic groups living in the city.



Makeni is growing. In 1963, Makeni had 12.304 inhabitants; 82.840 in 2004, latest official data (1.700 new citizens annually). Currently, the city round the 110.000 inhabitants. This population growth and the corresponding urban land suppose a huge challenge, aggravated by the context of poverty and the lack of economic and technical resources to cope.

Makeni think and astonishes. An International Forum has been held to think about the future of the city: "Towards a Sustainable Makeni". From CEU San Pablo, we collaborate with the City Council and the University of Makeni in the organization and development. Teachers and students, mix together, half actors, half spectators, with local stakeholders, Mayor, Deputy (interesting), Paramount Chief, Councillors, people of Unimak, representatives of district,... Without protocols or hierarchies, participants are organized in working groups. Five issues are considered and, as in a workshop, different thoughts and conclusions of each group are being considered.

Makeni can. Nothing is more sustainable than the capacity of a society to think together. And from here, everything is possible. A territory and its people looking for a better future. This forum was the first step and the next one is ready. Get on with it, Makeni!

Luis Perea Moreno.
CEU San Pablo Coordinator for International Cooperation.





Program

Friday July 12, 2013
 Opening Prayers (Muslim and Christian).
 Introduction of guests and coordinator:
 Emmanuel A. B. Turay.
 Opening remarks from the organizer.
 Welcome by the Mayor.
 Speeches: Vice President, Unimak.
 The Paramount Chief, Bobali Sebora.
 The Chairman, Bombali District Council.
 Key Note Address: Resident Minister, North.
 Acknowledgements.

Workshop

Friday July 12, 2013
 Lecture "Planning Sustainable Cities. Key Issues".
 Luis Perea, CEU San Pablo University.
 Working session. Questions, answers, explanations
 and comments.
 Working Groups. Dreaming a sustainable Makeni.
 Conclusions (Report of the working groups).

Saturday July 13, 2013
 Summary of the previous session.
 Working Groups. Challenges and opportunities.
 Mapping Makeni.
 Discussion over the short, medium and long term.
 Conclusions. Evaluation of the workshop.

**1 Governance and Public Participation**

Discussion session about priorities:
 -Understand the competences of the level units of
 administration involved on the development of Makeni.
 -President of Sierra Leone State.
 -Minister of the Northern Province.
 -Chairman of Bombali District Council.
 -Paramount Chief of Bombali Shebora Chiefdom.
 -Mayor of Makeni City.
 -Deal with rapid popularization.
 -Make local authorities easy accessible for people.
 -Move forward supported by the system.
 -Get funds from the Central Government and donors.
 -Involve Development Committees in the process.
 -Rethink the relation with the land (preserve land for future
 development).

Map out the way to a sustainable Makeni:
 - Paramount Chief of Bombali Shebora Chiefdom.
 -Play a leading role on consultation about the land
 uses in the city.
 -Assist the Local Government on land decisions.
 -Chairman of Bombali District Council.
 -Take decisions about the land use (with the assistance
 of the Paramount Chief).
 -Train the metropolitan civil servers on land issues.
 -Minister of the Northern Province.
 -Provide support in technical issues (the process
 should be led by the citizens).
 -Stability should be a premise on the process (strikes
 action could be considered).

**2 Environment and Biodiversity**

Discussion session about priorities:
 -Indiscriminate deforestation in the surroundings:
 -Wood is used or sold as fuel.
 -Mining is a cause of clearance.
 -Cleared land is used as pasture and new plantations
 and settlements requires open areas.
 -Location of flood areas in the city.
 -Preservation of urban spaces for:
 -Natural areas and parks.
 -Urban spaces linked together.
 -Education for the community on environmental issues:
 -Reforestation solve the damage to habitat.
 -Biodiversity loss threads.
 -Atmospheric carbon dioxide.
 -Regulations for domestic animals (dogs, goats ..).
 -Analyze problems caused by climate changes.
 -Implement the policies of land.

Map out the way to a sustainable Makeni:
 -Provide the city with a drainage system.
 -Improve the disposal of waste (recycle and reuse).
 -Preserve forests (to be carefull with the abolition of small
 villages).
 -Get funds for the improvements and preservation of the
 natural areas that surrounds Makeni.
 -International support is needed by the Council.
 -Review policies concerning mining (to help to prevent
 deforestation).
 -Design green areas inside Makeni linked with natural areas
 from the outside.



3 Infrastructure and Equipment

Discussion session about priorities:

- Energy:
 - Electricity and solar energy supply are limited.
 - Nepotism in the services to be offered.
- Water and Sanitation:
 - Hand pump wells, borehole wells, rain water, streams
 - Impure drainage system.
 - Latrines, pit latrines and toilets.
- Waste Management:
 - No collection of wasting materials.
- Health and Education:
 - Schools, Universities, Hospitals, Libraries and cultural services are not enough.

Map out the way to a sustainable Makeni:

- Energy:
 - An alternative electricity generator is needed to provide to more areas.
 - Different strategies to reduce the prices.
- Water and Sanitation:
 - Create a new drainage system in Makeni.
 - Combine different systems to provide people with water all the year.
 - Education in Sanitation for people.
- Waste Management:
 - Dustbins, refuse collectors and skip containers should increase.
 - Implement a waste management system.
- Health and Education:
 - Implement on-line education.



4 Urban Planning, mobility and quality of life

Discussion session about priorities:

- Makeni is growing as an extended city (think about reshaping to a condensed model).
- Railroads, roads (construction of elevated structures for highways).
- Recreational parks are needed.
- Intersections and buses for town services could improve mobility.
- Enforcement of government policies.

Map out the way to a sustainable Makeni:

- Plans for the city:
 - Lack of political willingness and lack of financial resources to acquire land.
- Public space:
 - Relocation (compensation fees) at city center: no adequate land for facilities.
 - Demolition (compensation fees): locate houses at the proper places.
- Transport:
 - Ineffective public transport system.
 - Road signs, traffic lights and public awareness.
- Action in neighbourhoods:
 - Provide available expertise (human resources) and natural resources.
 - Improve laws and policies concerning the use of land (involve institutions).
 - Regulate the use of land.
 - Inclusion of Urban Planning issues in school programs (learn from other countries).



5 Economic activity, employment and social cohesion

Discussion session about priorities:

- Analyze economic activities
 - Mining.
 - Agriculture.
 - back yard garden.
 - vegetable patch.
 - Self employment.
 - petty tracking.
 - bike riders.
 - hotels.
 - companies and entertainment.
 - Artisans.
 - wood.
 - metal.
 - cement.
 - tiles.
- Ensure gender equity and avoid racial segregation.

Map out the way to a sustainable Makeni:

- Economic.
 - Evaluate the product imports.
- Employment.
 - Increase the employment rate.
 - Cooperatives should be created for self employees.
 - Regulate child labour.
- Social cohesion.
 - Promote more research in universities.
 - Education for prosperity in schools (skills and training is needed).
 - Create a Training Center for Social Cohesion issues.



A Evaluation and Conclusion

Governance and Public Participation:

- Create a Committee of Urban Planning.
- Reinforce laws and encourage people to follow them.
- Continue with the participatory process.
- Implementation of Administrative Offices.

Environment and Biodiversity:

- Delimitation of nature network system.
- Preserve urban swamps areas as potential public spaces.
- Delimitation of vulnerable areas.

Infrastructure and Equipment:

- Ring road linked with the Urban Planning Model.
- Energy, waste, water and sanitation plan.
- Plan drainage system for Makeni city and the swamps.
- Preserve land for schools, hospitals, equipment and social centres, linked with the Urban Planning Model.

Urban Planning, mobility and quality of life:

- Urban Planning Model should be defined.
- Identify villages that could work as satellite towns.
- Identify transport nodes linked to the Urban Model.
- Regeneration plan for the city centre of Makeni.

Economic activity, employment and social cohesion:

- Preserve land to create activity nodes.
- Improvement agriculture processes and equipment.
- Preserve most productive lands for agriculture.
- Preserve lands for future industrial areas.
- Link economic activity and university programmes.



B Programme and schedule

After the forum, we suggest, based in all the issues of the event celebrated on July 12th and 13th, 2013, the next steps for a strategic plan based on the concept of a sustainable Makeni:

1. Create a Committee of Urban Planning that involve the Makeni City Council, the University of Makeni, the Government of the Northern Province, the District Council of Bombali and the Chieftom of Bombali Shebora (the collaboration with the Paramount Chief is needed). CEU San Pablo University could provide support on technical issues, counselling for the strategic action plan.

2. Get information of the current situation of the city of Makeni (the new limit of the city has been determined as an area of about seven miles radio). Maps should be developed (a cadastre is important) and population statistics should be updated (incorporation of the population of the villages around Makeni in the new radius of 7 miles).

3. Population Projections. Estimations for 20-30 years.

4. Analysis of the current situation in all matters relating to the debate generated during the event.

5. Diagnosis Document. A document linking the information of the analysis and the inputs of the forum. Unimak could provide CEU with the main issues from the forum, to put that on the maps. This document should advance key issues and priorities for a sustainable Makeni.

6. Preliminary ideas for the future. Strategic vision for a sustainable Makeni. Design the model of the city of Makeni and surroundings from a diagnosis document.

7. Second forum: Towards a Sustainable Makeni. January 2013 at Unimak with the cooperation of CEU San Pablo University. Now that we have the ideas for the discussion, the stakeholders of the city can put in common their visions. The discussion could be focused in a model of future city and main proposals as well as new steps on how to get this model.

From CEU San Pablo University, we would like to contribute with our summary vision of the main issues about the city of Makeni and its future, in the context of the planning process that has started. One of the most important questions is to develop a new model of the city, an Urban Planning model. As the dispersed growth is a risk for the future, and as it is the principal way of growth that is going on now, it should be proposed a model that links the ideas of the new urbanism.

In this approach, Makeni Town concentrates the main activities of the territory. With the current important rate of growth, the centre of the city could collapse in a few years. The potential model for the area is the one that focus the growth in some areas around Makeni (maybe in the biggest villages). This model of central city with satellite towns could work very well in Makeni optimizing the land uses, the road network system and preserving the environment.



Makeni does not have an official registry where it is possible to find a street map of the city. The roads, streets, or narrow paths, have their own names, which are only known by the citizens. Collect this popular knowledge, the large number of street names, is the objective of this assignment, whose purpose will be to capture on a plane all types of roads of the city centre.

The compilation of all the information relating to the streets is approached as a transversal work during our stay in Makeni; it is an activity in a continuous development, based on annotations of each of the streets, carried out in collaboration with the local people, especially thanks to the drivers of the University of Makeni, the ones who knew perfectly all the names of the streets from Magburaka Road, one of the main avenues, to the most hidden of the lines, a word that is used to name the small paths around which, new houses are growing all around the city completely out of control.

It is due to this organic and irregular growth of the city, that the map of Makeni is changing all the time including all kind of variations. This field work is only a fundamental base, a starting point to develop, later on, a huge Makeni street map, useful not only for the study of the city, but also for Makeni people in order to allow them to understand better their own city.

Carlos Altozano Lanzas.
Salvador Oriach Merino.





The Ropolon area is located in the Southwest area of the city of Makeni. It includes the buildings that surrounds the streets Ropolon road, from which is named, and Magburaka road, the one that has the city of the same name, and the land they enroll. Within this area is the University Center Northern Polytechnic, as well as the primary and secondary school of Benevolence (Benevolent Secondary School), equipped with a sports field and a social center for all the community; and serving to the entire neighborhood. The whole is dotted with crop fields for university practices, mainly of cassava, a traditional plant similar to the potato.



Ropolon is a district of Makeni defined by vague boundaries and an accelerated growth. Its configuration meets an urban model that is not far away from that of a small size African village: an aggregate of single-family houses, essentially autonomous in their arrangement (wells, latrines, orchards,...) and scattered throughout an informal space that acts as a neutral backdrop of relationship.

But when a settlement acquires a city vocation, it is essential the consideration of a more complex model, which arrange the urban plot and its future growth, including the outline of collective networks of services, equipment, tertiary, and so on; a model that requires urban planning. The colonization that took place in these countries as a result of the need for city, left an outstanding debt: to transmit the knowledge about how to "make city".

Nowadays, it is the academic environment of urban planning the one that could encourage the recognition of that debt; a recognition from where it derives, unavoidable, the commitment and the opportunity to participate in this how to "make city". There is no objective more demanding or with no more sense for the current planning than this cooperation with political and social environmental agents, as Ropolon. That is what its inhabitants shout in silent, and to which this cooperation project which has been already started is trying to answer.

Daniel Pérez Arnau.
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