

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of the latest local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office as of:

Wednesday, August 24, 2005

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
If you are aware of omissions or have any comments or suggestions please contact
Mariama S. Yilla
Ext 7217 / 7216

The New Storm. Wednesday, August 24th, 2005.

COMMENTARY

Chief Norman's Injunction And Its Implications

The Sierra Leone Peoples Party, SLPP, is currently awaiting the outcome of court injunction filed in by the legal luminary, Dr. Bu-Buakei Jabbie on behalf of his client, Chief Sam Hinga Norman.

The case was concluded on Wednesday August 17th and the two parties were told to go home and expect a date on which the verdict would be given.

The injunction itself has some implications. In the first place, for a country which is just coming out of a devastated war, it is good for democracy. It shows that Sierra Leone, as a country, now strictly follows democratic principles and practice.

The injunction questioned the convening of the national delegates conference which would have been held in the northern provincial headquarter of Makeni.

Hotels and guest houses in the township and the
Contd page 7

COMMENTARY

From front page environs have all been booked by aspirants vying for, especially the leadership, against the 19th and 20th August, 2005 dates.

But this has been stalled following the court order. I know not how these aspirants may be feeling. But I certainly know that they will not be too happy with the deferment of the conference.

The injunction has also sent signals to the party officials that gone are

the days when members simply take things for granted.

Moreover, the plaintiff maintained that ministers, deputy ministers, as well as the vice president will have to resign their positions if they are to qualify to contest for the various positions in the party executive, quoting sections from the constitution. But this has been countered by the defence lawyer although some ministers have reportedly written their letters of resignation and have them in

their bags ready to tender if it comes to that.

Chief Sam Hinga Norman himself had denied allegations that he was fighting for power. But the current injunction may raise eyebrows as to the authenticity of his claim.

However, I see the whole scenario as good for the party and the country. It will surely make the party strong and ensure that whatever position one holds, one will know for sure that power belongs to the people.

Why SLPP Chairman Met Hinga Norman

The Chairman of the Sierra Leone Peoples Party, Dr. Sama S. Banya yesterday intimated the New Citizen that the SLPP convention would remain on hold until after the Supreme Court verdict after Special Court indictee, Sam Hinga Norman. *Cont page 7*

FROM PAGE 1
challenged the *raison d'être* for the convention and questioned the sense around electing a party leader or presidential candidate at this time when the elections are still eighteen months away.
Dr. Sama S. Banya said that the SLPP has a democratic tradition and that the convention remains postponed until after the Supreme Court verdict. When asked whether he had any idea when the verdict would be given, Dr. Banya said, "possibly by the end of this week or next week, but of course, before the verdict is

given, we will be given the advance notice, three days before the verdict itself."
When also asked whether it was true that he met Sam Hinga Norman at the Special Court, Dr. Banya replied, "yes, I met Sam Hinga Norman at his own request and during that meeting. Sam Hinga Norman emptied his chest after he complained about several matters affecting his welfare, but on the whole, the meeting was cordial. I was accompanied by Hon. Mohamed Fofanah, the Majority Leader in

Parliament to meet Hinga Norman. Alieu Kondowa and Moinina Fofanah but later, Issa Sesay of the RUF and other indictees joined us and we exchanged views."
Dr. Banya said that he informed Sam Hinga Norman that there was no way by which his position about the leadership of the SLPP could be negotiated, especially since the matter has been taken to court.
He informed the New Citizen that Sam Hinga Norman expected Dr. Banya and Hon. Mohamed Fofanah to visit him again

on Friday, but Dr. Banya explained that such a visit to Sam Hinga Norman would not be possible until after the Supreme Court verdict on the future of the SLPP.
The Special Court has not made any public statement as to whether or not Chief Sam Hinga Norman, who is a Special Court indictee, in-

carcerated here in Freetown, would be in a comfortable position to contest for the presidency of Sierra Leone, but a spokesman for the Special Court said to the New Citizen last week, "if you had waited until 2006 when the matter of the CDF would have been concluded and a verdict given, then I would have been

in a position to tell you whether Sam Hinga Norman can contest for the presidency or not, but the most I can state at this time is that the conduct of elections in Sierra Leone is done according to Sierra Leone law and the Special Court has nothing to do with such legislation."

Downbelow: Sir Albert Converses With Marah & Teacher Lagawo - Part III



Hinga Norman

The Searcher continues with the downbelow conversation between Sir Albert Margai and Teacher Lagawo.

Teacher Lagawo continued. "Tejan has stepped on the toes of a lot of party supporters. I wonder how many friends he will still have after his retirement in 2007?"

S. B. Marah responded. "my fear is that people might isolate him as the APC did to Siaka Stevens when he handed over power to Joseph Momoh in 1985".

Sir Albert asked again. "you mean Ahmad does not have friends within the SLPP?"

Marah responded. "not that Ahmad does not have friends but those he refer to as his friends are not those who made him what he is today. Imagine, Sir Albert, Harry Will and Momoh Pujeh who spent their last savings to bring back the SLPP to power were disgraced in their respective offices, the party office at Rawdon Street

on a daily basis. Sir Albert, it seems to suggest that Ahmad Kabbah does not really have the true spirit of the party". Teacher Lagawo turned to Sir Albert and observed. "Tejan was annoyed with me when I tried to prevent some small boys from toppling Hinga Norman as head of the Kamajors."

Sir Albert turned and looked at his watch and observed. "it is exactly midnight. Do you mean Hinga? And what about the Kamajors?"

Teacher Lagawo replied. "I mean the same old Hinga Norman who placed the then Governor General under gun-point when the Governor General was about to swear into office Siaka Stevens as Prime Minister".

Sir Albert again looked straight into the eyes of Teacher Lagawo and asked. "you mean Hinga is still in the news?"

Teacher Lagawo replied. "more than ever. Sir Albert, the Kamajors were the militia group comprising boys mainly from the stronghold of our party. The

my boy Hinga, so the small boys did not succeed in removing him as head of the Kamajors?"

S.B. Marah said. "they failed, so the next move was for Kabbah and Berewa to set a trap for him because rumours abound that Berewa had eyed the presidency. Some party stalwarts are even alleging that Berewa is casting blame or finding one fault or the other on all the potential aspirants of the party when he served as Attorney General so that by 2007, no true SLPP supporter will be considered qualified and credible to succeed Kabbah".

Sir Albert asked again. "so what happened?"

Teacher Lagawo answered. "Hinga was arrested in broad daylight at Liverpool Street, handcuffed, indicted and detained at the Special Court. They pretended to us as if the Special Court was set up to try the rebels and the soldiers who plundered the land, least knowing that the Special Court is meant to try those who bear the greatest responsibility during the war.

is stinking. Look, Teacher Lagawo here with us can testify that we made several efforts for the party to repossess Unity House which you built for the party but up to the time I came downbelow to join you people, the SLPP had still not occupied the said building. Harry Will is now languishing in Freetown so is Momoh Pujeh, strolling the streets of Freetown

soldiers who overthrew the APC blamed South-East-erners for igniting war in the country and so, as a form of retaliation, the soldiers were bent on destroying these regions in return. It was the Kamajors who stoutly resisted their sinister plans." Sir Albert shook his head pitifully and said, "I remembered

S. B. Marah fumed and looked into the eyes of Sir Albert and said, "look Sir Albert, there is nothing as shocking as the Special Court. If anything happens tomorrow, who will defend the party and the nation because apart from restoring the SLPP to power in 1999, Hinga's boys fought relentlessly to ensure that democracy is sustained in the country".