



Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development (MLG&RD)

In collaboration with National Electoral Commission (NEC)



REPORT ON THE DECLARATION OF RIGHTS
SANDA TENDAREN CHIEFDOM 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2021

DISTRICT PROFILE: Karene District is located in the North West Region of Sierra Leone, and shares common borders with Bombali and Koinadugu Districts to the Northeast, Kambia and Port Loko Districts to the Northwest and with the Republic of Guinea to the Northeast and Northwest. Kamakwie, the Chiefdom headquarters of the Sella Limba Chiefdom, is the largest town and also stands as the District Capital which is approximately 72 kilometers from Makeni. Other major towns include Foredugu, Kamasondo, Maron, Gbinti, Gbonka, Batkanu, Rogboreh, Sendugu, Makomray, Kamalo, Fintonia, Samaya, etc. The district has five (5) ferry crossing points namely: **Kabba Ferry** from Kamakwie to Fintonia, **Thompare Ferry** from Kamakwie to Samaya, **Banthoror Ferry** from Mateboi to Batkanu, **Mabanta Ferry** from Gbinti to Sendugu, **Bayleh Ferry** from Batkanu to Roctolon.

The ethnicity of the district is largely homogeneous but predominantly dominated by the Temne, followed by the Loko, Limba with the Susu, Fula, and the Mandingo forming an important ethnic base.

Electoral, there are five (5) Constituencies (), twenty-one (21) Wards, one hundred and fifty-five (155) Polling Centres and three hundred (300) Polling Stations. Administratively, the District has a sub office in Gbinti headed by the Assistant District Elections. Karene is the second District that has two Voter Education and Training Officers (VETOs) and Two Office Assistants (OAs).

CHIEFDOM PROFILE: Sanda Tendaren is a Chiefdom mixed between Lokos and Temnes. In the origin story, the indigenous Loko met peacefully with a group of Temne migrants from Rogbin. The group of Temne migrants was led by a man named Bai Quee. Two families in the chiefdom traced their origin to the Temne migrants and one to the original Lokos. In 1950, two very small Loko Chiefdoms, Mafonda-Makerembay and Gombahun, which were known at the time as the Batkanu Joint Native Administration, were annexed to Sanda Tendaren. The chiefs of the two chiefdoms became Sub-Chiefs to the Sanda Tendaren Paramount Chief Bai Lama. Their families have never been recognized as able to stand for the Sanda Tendaren chieftaincy. The last Paramount Chief of the Chiefdom was the late Kandeh Wusu Sesay II, a Temne elected in 2002. The Chiefdom is made up of the following Ruling houses:

Munu: This ruling house traces the lineage of Bai Lama Kondo Munu, the very first chief to be recognized by the British. The family is affiliated with Malama, Sendugu, Matetie and Mateboi villages.

Sanu: This house, which has never won an election, is the lineage of Foday Telpheh Sanu, One of the early from Rogbin, Roshackar village is their headquarter

Sesay: This house is the lineage of Mora Alie, grandson of Bai Quee the early migrant. Their headquarter is at Rosana.

Bangura: This ruling house originated from the great warrior Bai Massa Yealie Agbemitie. The headquarter of this Bangura is Rogbaneh. The first person to contest under this Ruling House was Thaim Fera Bangura who contested with Kandeh Wusu Sesay I.

The Declaration of Rights was held at the Court Barray in Mateboi, which is the Chiefdom Headquarter Town. There were **Two Hundred and Ninety (290)** Chiefdom Electors in the gazette and **Two Hundred and Fifty-Two (252)** were present at the Court Barray for the Declaration process. Roll call for the entire Chiefdom was made by the NEC District Staff wherein, the District Elections Manager appended his signature and validated the Local Tax receipts by using the NEC stamp. For every Section, Section Chiefs/Town Chiefs were called upon to stand by the NEC Staff to identify and confirmed the rightful persons whose names appeared in the gazette.

STATEMENTS:

DISTRICT OFFICER: He made reference to two meetings that were held, 29th August, and 3rd September, 2021 with the Aspirants and the Stakeholders of Sanda Tendaren Chiefdom at Rogboreh Court Barray in which they prepared the minds of both parties about the Declaration of Rights and to also look at critically on the gazette. From the two publications published so far, they found out that, there was no addition or subtraction of name but only few corrections were to be made by just aligning misplacement of towns and villages to the respective Traditional Authority. He reiterated that, in those two meetings also they educated the Aspirants about how to declare, the required documents to present and what were their expected roles and responsibilities towards the success of the Paramount Chieftaincy Elections. He encouraged all to be attentive for them to get the message of the Declaration.

ASSESSOR CHIEFS:

As the Chieftaincy Act, of 2009 (Section 11(1) requires the presence of two Assessor Chiefs during the Declaration of Rights, the following Paramount Chiefs were officially informed and invited by the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development to serve as witnesses to the process.

Assessor Chief One: (Within the District): P. C. Kandeh Sorie Kakandeh III of Tambakha Sibinguie Chief, Karene District. He said, Chieftaincy is a family thing which had begun a long time ago. He cited examples by saying that, he has twenty (20) children but later asked if all those children are in a ruling house or not. He went further to extend by emphasizing that, are their children's children not in ruling house or not. If we started to condemn one another now, this would lead to war. Out of the nine (9) Candidates, one of you would surely emerge as the winner but all the others contesting would have got legal receipts and their children have automatically qualified too.

Assessor Chief Two (Outside the District): Hon P. C. Kandeh Bangura Gbetgbo III of Kamaranka Chiefdom, Bombali District expressed his dismayed of them not receiving the hospitality they as Assessor Chiefs should have since their arrival the previous day. He cautioned the Regent Chief to talk to his Aspirants to do as tradition demanded. He advised all and sundry to be attentive and this activity was key in the crowning of a Chief.

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY (P/S) – NORTH/WEST REGION: The Provincial Secretary (P/S) gave series of quotations from to Chieftaincy Act, 2009 with detailed explanations relating to the purpose we have assembled. He declared the Declaration of Rights process to be opened and allowed the Aspirants/Declarants to establish their claims to the throne. On the whole, nine (9) Aspirants were available for the Declaration of Rights:

Table 1.1: List of Aspirants/Declarants:

NO.	NAME ASPIRANT/CANDIDATE	OF	RULING HOUSE	CONTACT
1.	Sesay, Minkailu A.		Sesay	078 – 404 – 843
2.	Munu, Sallu		Munu	074 – 099 – 180
3.	Sanu, Amadu Thuinker		Sanu	073 – 581 – 481
4.	Munu, Abdul Karim		Bangura	077 – 330 – 167
5.	Bangura, Alhaji Abdul		Bangura	076 – 753 – 387
6.	Sesay, Foday		Munu	077 – 538 – 711
7.	Munu, Abdul Rahman		Sesay	077 – 317 – 175
8.	Bangura, Sheikh AbdulRahman Tejan		Munu	075 – 774 – 437
9.	Sesay, Sheriff Abass		Bangura	079 – 211 – 044

PRESENTATIONS BY THE ASPIRANTS/DECLARANTS:

- 1. SESAY, MINKAILU HAMID:** Said he is contesting under the **SESAY RULING HOUSE** of Sanda Tendaren Chiefdom. “I am standing in front of this gathering to establish my relation to the chieftaincy throne of Sanda Tendaren Chiefdom. Firstly, my father was P. C. Kandeh Wusu Sesay I. Secondly, my elder brother was also Paramount Chief of this Chiefdom by the name late P. C. Kandeh Wusu Sesay II. If Kandeh Wusu Sesay II passed away in this Chiefdom and ruled his people very well with total peace, development and unity that has prompted me also to vie for this noble seat under the Sesay Ruling House and I am categorically saying that, we the Sesay Family is the only family that can control this Chiefdom, is that not so?”
Several questions were posed by the Provincial Secretary and Assessor Chiefs and there was no objection to his rightful claim.
- 2. SESAY, SHERIFF ABASS:** Said he is coming from the **SESAY RULING HOUSE** of Sanda Tendaren Chiefdom. He started his presentation with an elongated history of his ancestors and according to him; he is connected to the Chieftaincy of this Chiefdom through his ancestors. Our Great Grand Fathers started this Chieftaincy. According to him, the Chieftaincy started with a man called Pa Kabof and after him Pa Payis, after him Bai Quee Refa who fought for this Chieftaincy severally but to no avail. He gave birth to two children. Namely, Pa Ratha and Pa Morr Alie. The latter also fought for the same Chieftaincy and became abortive. But we have our own Section which is called Rogboreh. Pa Morr Alie gave birth to a son called Alimamy Umaro who was the first Section Chief of Rogboreh. When the time comes for the crowning of a Paramount Chief, our uncle by the name Pa Bakarr Lakanday who would have been the sole candidate for the family but faced much opposition from other family members. The family went and brought in Alimamy Umaro who was the Section Chief of Rogboreh to contest for that Chieftaincy. He declared himself and won the rightful claim to the throne but he was not fortunate to be crowned until his death. When he died, his son by the name of Kandeh Wusu Sesay I who was a great grandson of Pa Morr Alie requested for him to be crowned and won the Chieftaincy. I am connected to this Chieftaincy because P. C. Kandeh Wusu Sesay I was my uncle. When he died the family asked me to contest together with Alimamy Sesay but Kandeh Wusu Sesay the II came and talked to us and we agreed to support him. He was crowned and later passed away. As a result of that I have decided to contest this time round. The Tribal Authorities present were asked to ascertain the presentation of Mr. Sesay, Sheriff Abass and consented with a

round of applause. He was questioned by the P/S and Assessor Chiefs but he was able to convince them with his answers.

3. **SESAY, FODAY:** I am Foday Sesay the next Paramount Chief by the name of Kandeh Sesay the III of Sanda Tendaren. According to him, anywhere you heard of a Sesay in Sanda Tendaren they are related and they have the same blood. “As I stand in front of you this afternoon, I have right to this Chieftaincy because of the Sesay Ruling House. Our Great ancestor was Pa Bai Quee. The latter was a warrior and fought very hard and later found himself at Rossana village where he dropped his sword upon his arrival. He got married at the above village were begot children. One of them was Pa Gbongb Lai who gave birth to Pa Morr Alie. The former gave birth to a child called Pa Manna Sesay. For him, he has right to the throne because he is the nephew of Kandeh Wusu Sesay the I. The name of his brother who gave birth to me was called Sallu Sesay. P. C. Kandeh Wusu Sesay the II was my elder brother so if I am being asked how I was connected to the Chieftaincy, this is what I have to say.” Tribal Authorities is that not so? They all acclaimed by saying yes. From his presentation, P. C. Kandeh Gbetgbo said he has no question for him because his explanation was very straight forward.
4. **BANGURA, SHEIKH, ABDULRAHMAN TEJAN:** He extended greetings to members of the High Table and started by saying that, “Chieftaincy is an olden day’s tradition. I cannot prolong my explanation because, today I have come to step into the shoes that were left by my late Uncle whose name was Thaim Fera Bangura and he was the elder brother of my father whose name was Pa Alimamy Bangura. The former contested for Paramount Chief with Kandeh Wusu Sesay I and was given a box but was unable to win. When Kandeh Wusu Sesay I passed away, another election was conducted and my brother Bakarr Sorieba Bangura contested with Kandeh Wusu Sesay II.” He forwarded evidence to substantiate his claim that their Ruling House has been a recognized one. He presented a book which was written by Mohamed N’fa Alie Conteh, former Chief Electoral Commissioner of NEC title: “The Chieftaincy in Sierra Leone.” Page 72. “If that is so, I have come to stand for this Chieftaincy as Kandeh Bangura I of Sanda Tendaren.” He was objected to by Minkailu Hamid Sesay who asked a question by saying that, if someone solicited funds from an NGO and decided to assist Tribal authorities; is that correct. The P/S overruled his objection on the grounds that what he was trying to establish has no bearing to what was being discussed. Questions were posed to him and the T/As’ supported his claim with a thunderous voice.
5. **BANGURA, ALHAJI ABDUL:** He started his presentation by extending warm greetings to all and sundry for making such an occasion a colourful one. He reiterated on the origin of Chieftaincy in the Chiefdom and emphasized that, those who started this Chiefdom were warriors and automatically became caretakers who were given the Golden Staff to rule. He said that their family has been bewitched with bad luck as far as Chieftaincy matters were concerned and went on to say that, this is their time and by the grace of Allah, they would surely clinch this noble seat. “I am the son of Pa Kapr Thinker Gbogbro Bangura. The latter was not a warrior but it was his father who was the warrior by the name of Pa Ggbosonko Bangura who fought with Bbai Masa Yealie and other Chieftaincy camps in the likes of the Sesay’s, the Sanu’s, the Munu’s and

another group that was not present was the Kamara Family as they too have right to this Chieftaincy. Now, my position is to talk on behalf of the Bangura's. My Grandfather, when the war became escalated between the Lokos and the Temnes, and the Lokos had wanted to take over the Chiefdom. My Grandfather (Pa Gbosonko) was taken to Matainka village that lies along the border between the Lokos and the Temnes. When the war ended, it was agreed that all the warriors in the Chiefdom, their descendants have right to the Chieftaincy. It is against this backdrop I am contesting. Unfortunately, my father was never lucky to be crowned," and for him, he said, is desperate for the enviable position. Their Family had fought for the Chieftaincy title twice and each time they lost and this time round, they rely heavily on the Tribal Authorities. So, if he was asked to speak for this purpose, this was what he had to say.

6. **MUNU, ABDUL RAHMAN:** "I greet you all. I am happy to be here and my name is Abdul Rahman Munu born in Sendugu Village. I have come for this Chieftaincy title in order to fight for the Chieftaincy cap of my Great Grandfather P. C. Bai Lama Kafoiem aka Bai Lama Anpampay who had the same father with Thinker Bakie. The latter gave birth to Pa Foro who in turn gave birth to my father by the name of Pa Alie Gbakay Munu. It is in that regard I am contesting." He posed his argument to the Tribal Authorities present who responded with a round of applause.
7. **SANU, AMADU THINKER:** "I am Amadu Thinker Sanu. I represent the Sanu Ruling House. I am one of the luckiest members of the family. In 2002, I was appointed by the Seven (7) Families that made up of the Sanu Ruling House as the sole candidate to contest for that Chieftaincy. I declared and I was given box but did not succeed in the race. In this 2021 Chieftaincy also, the family has chosen me to contest on their behalf. It is on this note I have decided vie for this position again. My people, is that not so?" The Tribal authorities present shouted with a thunderous voice.
8. **MUNU, ABDUL KARIM:** He started by blessing the visiting team and emphasized that he is Abdul Karim Munu a native born of Sendugu village under the Munu Ruling House of Sanda Tendaren Chiefdom. He has come forward to tell the people that he was one of the Candidates that contested in the last Paramount Chieftaincy election with Kandeh Wusu Sesay II. He presented a document bearing his symbol for that election. At the end of his presentation, he also presented a photograph of his late father. The Tribal authorities shouted in unison. The Provincial Secretary asked whether there was any objection to what he had said. There was no one to object to his claim.
9. **MUNU, SALLU:** "Good afternoon all he said. My name is Sallu Munu. I came from the Munu Ruling House of Malama village. The first Paramount Chief to be crowned by the Munu's was called Bai Lama Kondo. This man was a warrior but not a warrior of sword and weapon but a peaceful warrior. He wanted peace, unity and development in the Chiefdom that was why he was crowned. He Bai Lama Kondo had two children. Namely: **Bai Lama Borbor** and Pa **Yenkeh**. The former gave birth to **Pa Kabin** and **Pa Kabin** gave birth to **Sorie Panday alias Sorie Munu** who gave birth to the young warrior (Orkrugba) by the name of Sallu Munu. The name 'Orkrugba' that was given to

me was not by mistake it was as a result of the attributes of my Grandfather Bai Lama Kondo that I was named after him. He was tall, brave and dark in complexion, handsome, good looking and above all an individual of peace and development. That was the main reason why the name ‘Krugba’ was given to me. I was in the United States of America. My battle of Chieftaincy started in 2001 when I came to visit my people. They pounced on me to contest but I was not ready at that time and left for the States. I came for the second time and they still asked me to contest. I have whole heartedly agreed to the demands of the family and that has been the major reason for me to contest.” All the Tribal Authorities present laughed and clapped in agreement.

RECESS:

However, a recess was announced by the District Officer (D/O) Karene District for the Provincial Secretary and the Assessor Chiefs to be able to look into the various presentations of the Declarants. A closed-door meeting was held among the aforementioned to have consultations and how they would be able to deliver valid and credible judgments that would usher everlasting sanity in the Chieftdom.

DECLARATION OF RESULTS OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES:

After serious consultations, critical assessment and proper brain storming on the Declarants presentations on their rightful birthright to the Chieftaincy of Sanda Tendaren; the Provincial Secretary, in his address, pronounced that out of the Nine (9) contesting candidates, eight (8) of them are qualified to run for the Chieftaincy title of Sanda Tendaren Chieftdom. Below are the under mentioned candidates that were presented to the people of as follows:

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Table 1.2: List of Qualified Candidates:

No.	NAME OF CANDIDATE	RULING HOUSE	CONTACT
1.	Sesay, Minkailu Hamid	Sesay	078 – 404 – 843
2.	Munu, Sallu	Munu	074 – 099 – 180
3.	Sanu, Amadu Thinker	Sanu	073 – 581 – 481
4.	Munu, Abdul Karim	Munu	077 – 330 – 167
5.	Sesay, Foday	Sesay	077 – 538 – 711
6.	Munu, Abdul Rahman	Munu	077 – 317 – 175
7.	Bangura, Sheikh Abdul Rahman Tejan	Bangura	075 – 774 – 437
8.	Sesay, Sheriff Abass	Sesay	079 – 211 – 044

On the hand, the under mentioned Aspirant stood the test of times to be disqualified:

Table 1.3: Disqualified Aspirants/Declarant:

NO.	NAME OF ASPIRANT/CANDIDATE	RULING HOUSE	CONTACT
1.	Bangura, Alhaji Abdul	Bangura	076 – 753 – 387

JUSTIFICATION/REASONS: The above man was objected to by Mr. Alusine Bangura of Roshackar village, a family member of the Bangura. He said, Alhaji Abdul Bangura is indeed a Bangura but not a Bangura of the Yankabala Kura Mende Ruling House. He (Alhaji Abdul Bangura) is the son of a Ceremonial Chief who was crowned by the Munu’s

(Pa Kapr Bisonko). When Bissonko died, Alhaji Abdul Bangura's father was made Regent Chief. In 2012, his elder brother contested with Kandeh Wusu Sesay II and was disqualified on those grounds. So, the Provincial Secretary and the Assessor Chiefs followed the same verdict and disqualified him on the same grounds.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ❖ A special stamp needs to be provided by both the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLG&RD) and the National Electoral Commission (NEC) for the purpose of validating or authenticating the Local Tax receipt of the Chiefdom Electors/Tribal authorities
- ❖ Logistics for P. C Elections should be disbursed on time.

Faithfully submitted by:

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Steven Sallu Kabba
District Elections Manager - Karene