BREAKING BARRIERS

REBECCA JIMMY YAMBASU'S JOURNEY TO LEADERSHIP



Rebecca Jimmy Yambasu is a vibrant young woman born and raised in Kono District. Her advocacy journey began in 2015 when she was working as a teacher. Despite her deep concerns about the plight of women and girls in her community—specifically regarding violence against girls, sexual reproductive rights, and women's political empowerment—her voice was often stifled by her own insecurities.

JOINING THE KONO WOMEN IN GOVERNANCE NETWORK

In 2015, Rebecca joined the Kono Women in Governance Network, formed through the Power to Women project. This initiative marked the beginning of a transformational journey of capacity building and self-discovery for Rebecca. By 2018, she had established confidence in herself and *ascended to the position of Deputy Secretary General.* This role marked the resurgence of her voice and agency.

LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

Rebecca's mission was far from over. Having witnessed and experienced the persistent underrepresentation of women in decision-making spheres, *she embraced the More Than A Woman project introduced by SEND Sierra Leone with the support of the Irish Embassy in Sierra Leone in 2020.* With the skills and strategies gained from this project, *Rebecca assumed the mantle of leadership as the President of the Kono Women in Governance Network in 2020.*

As president, she represented women across the political divide and contributed to national issues affecting the welfare of women. Her tenure was marked by *unwavering dedication and tireless advocacy, earning her recognition and respect across the Eastern region.*

POLITICAL JOURNEY

Despite her initial reluctance to enter politics, Rebecca's transformative leadership caught the attention of political parties. Encouraged by mentors and respected development professionals, she decided to join the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP). *Through resilience and determination, she emerged victorious, becoming the first Deputy Chairperson of the Kono District Council.*

IMPACT AND LEGACY

Serving at the helm of governance, Rebecca's influence transcends boundaries. She remains steadfast in her commitment to champion the rights of women and girls while nurturing the next generation of female leaders. Her story serves as a powerful testament to the impact of perseverance and courage.

"Empowerment isn't just about finding your own voice; it's about amplifying the voices of those who've been silenced. Together, we can rewrite the narrative of inequality and pave the path to a future where every woman and girl can thrive," says Rebecca Jimmy Yambasu.

CONCLUSION

Rebecca's journey has touched many, especially young girls. Her story is not just one of personal triumph but a defining moment showcasing the power of perseverance, courage, and the firm belief in the possibility of a better tomorrow. Through her continuous efforts, Rebecca Jimmy Yambasu has shattered stereotypes and paved the way for a more inclusive and equitable society in Kono District.

