

SALONE JAMBOREE

Motto: celebrating Arts, Entertainment and Culture

Monday 6th- Friday 10th July 2026

Vol:1 No: 078

Price Le 4

Art | Entertainment | LifeStyle | Culture | Tourism



"IT'S LONG OVERDUE": YOK 7 PRAISES PEACE AMBASSADOR SHADY BABY FOR HONORING SALONE HIP-HOP PIONEERS



SIERRA LEONE NAMED AFRICA'S FRIENDLIEST NATION AGAIN: "THEY ARE NATURALLY FRIENDLY" SAYS NIGERIAN MOTORCYCLIST

"DARLYN"? RFM BOSS LAJ AND EX-BLACK LEO QUEEN DEL VAQUO SPARK ROMANCE RUMORS



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"Darlyn"? RFM Boss LAJ And Ex-Black Leo Queen Del Vaquo Spark Romance Rumors



**Boss LAJ
And Ex-
Black Leo
Queen Del
Vaquo on
stage**



The biggest rivalry in Sierra Leone music might have just taken an unexpected turn — from diss tracks to dating rumors.

Red Flag Movement head and rap heavyweight LAJ is at the center of romance speculation with Queen Del Vaquo, the former female face of rival camp Black Leo.

For years, RFM and Black Leo have been at war. Diss songs have flown back and forth between LAJ's camp and Kao Denero, the self-proclaimed "Boss" of Black Leo. The two labels have defined Sierra Leone's rap scene through competition, pride, and bars.

But now, the lines appear to be blurring.

The Evidence That Has Fans Talking

In recent weeks, Del Vaquo has been spotted on stage with LAJ at multiple events. Photos

from one performance have gone viral, with fans saying "the pictures say it all." The two looked comfortable, hyping each other up and sharing the stage like more than just colleagues.

She didn't stop there. On LAJ's birthday, Del Vaquo took to Facebook to wish him well — and called him "Darlyn." Yes, Darlyn.

That one word sent social media into overdrive.

From Black Leo Love To RFM Flames?

The plot thickens because Del Vaquo was previously linked to Kao Denero. The two have since split, but her closeness to LAJ now has people asking questions.

Some fans believe this is real. "LAJ and Del Vaquo look good together. Maybe love won over rivalry," one comment read.

Others aren't so sure. A popular theory online is that

Del Vaquo is simply trying to "get at" Kao Denero. "This is just payback. She knows exactly what she's doing," another fan posted.

Rivals To Romance?

Whether it's genuine or strategic, one thing is clear: if LAJ and Del Vaquo are an item, it's the biggest crossover in Salone music history. The RFM boss linking with Black Leo's former queen would be a twist no diss track could write.

Neither LAJ nor Del Vaquo has confirmed or denied the rumors. But with stage appearances, birthday shout-outs, and that "Darlyn" post, the streets are already deciding.

Is this love, or just the latest move in the RFM vs Black Leo saga?

What do you think? Is Del Vaquo really LAJ's "Darlyn," or is this all about getting back at Kao Denero? Drop your thoughts below.

Kao Denero Advocates For Salone Artists Abroad As 3 Musicians Land In Canada For Historic Performances

Sierra Leone's music industry is making new international moves, and Entertainment Ambassador Kao Denero is right at the center of it.

This week, three Sierra Leonean artists — Incredible JJ, Alieu Melody, and Atical Foyoh — became the first musicians from the country to perform in Canada this year. JJ and Melody just landed and were received by Atical Foyoh, who had already performed in Canada in the presence of First Lady Fatima Maada Bio.

According to sources close to the trip, all three performances were facilitated by the Office of the First Lady. However, one of the artists, Atical Foyoh, was directly advocated for by Entertainment Ambassador Kao Denero.

"CleanHeartForColleagues" Fans online have praised Denero for using his office to open doors for fellow creatives.

One viral post supporting the move read:

> "The Industry has improved tremendously under the leadership of Amb. Kaolastkingdenero as



Entertainment Ambassador of the Republic of Sierra Leone. Kaolastkingdenero na man wae get clean heart for inh colleague entertainers. Look how inh don help Atical Foyoh ba, from connecting him to the president and the first lady, now na Canada connection.

The post highlights Denero's role in connecting Atical Foyoh to the Presidency

and the First Lady, which eventually led to the Canada opportunity.

A Win For Sierra Leone Music

This marks a major milestone for Salone music. Having three artists on one international bill in the same year signals growth and new opportunities for creatives back home.

Supporters say the move will "add value and create more opportunities" for Sierra Leonean artists on the global stage. It also shows the growing collaboration between government, through the First Lady's office, and the entertainment sector, led by the Entertainment Ambassador.

As one fan put it: "#bloggermansofcottontreetalk — First 3 Sierra Leonean musicians to perform in Canada this year. All facilitated by our amazing First Lady, but one advocated for by Kao Denero. This is the kind of push we need."

What are your opinions? Is this the start of more international bookings for Salone artists? Drop your thoughts to info@salonejamboree.net

"It's Long Overdue": YOK 7 Praises Peace Ambassador Shady Baby For Honoring Salone Hip-Hop Pioneers

Veteran rapper YOK 7 is giving flowers where they're due — and he's giving them to Peace Ambassador Abu Bakarr S. Turay, popularly known as Shady Baby.

The recognition came after the two shared the stage in the US, where they performed one of YOK 7's biggest Sierra Leone hits, "Ah Bo." The song, a classic that still gets the crowd moving back home, brought the house down and reminded fans why YOK 7 is considered one of the forefathers of Salone hip-hop/rap.

Coming right after YOK 7 just celebrated his birthday, the moment felt even more special.

"Big Up To The Peace Ambassador"

In a heartfelt Facebook post, YOK 7 thanked Shady Baby for the acknowledgment and for putting respect on the names of those who built the foundation.



He wrote:
> **"Big up to the peace ambassador Abu Bakarr S Turay, also known as SHADY BABY!"**

> **I'm honored that you've recognized me as one of the pioneers of Sierra Leone's music, particularly hip-hop/rap music. It's long overdue for such representation in our music industry, as we've been subjected to numerous derogatory and disrespectful statements from those who haven't contributed to the field."**

The Noble Squad rapper went on to thank fans, fellow artists, and the event organizers, saying

the honor "means the world" to him and will "have a lasting impact and inspire others to pursue their passions."

He ended with: "God bless you, my brother."

A Moment Of Unity For Salone Music

Shady Baby, who has been active in peace advocacy through music, has been pushing to bridge generations in the industry. Bringing YOK 7 on stage to perform "Ah Bo" was seen by many as a passing-of-the-torch moment — veteran to current ambassador, pioneer to peace advocate.

Fans online praised the gesture, with many commenting that it's time the OGs get their credit. For years, YOK 7 and others have spoken about being overlooked, despite laying the groundwork for today's rap scene.

With this performance and public praise, it looks like that narrative is finally changing.

One stage. One classic song. And one important message: respect the pioneers.

Sierra Leone Named Africa's Friendliest Nation Again: "They Are Naturally Friendly" Says Nigerian Motorcyclist



Sierra Leone Named Africa's Friendliest Nation Again: "They Are Naturally Friendly" Says Nigerian Motorcyclist

A viral video from a Nigerian female motorcyclist is putting Sierra Leone back in the spotlight — and this time it's for our hearts, not just our beaches.

In a Facebook video that has been widely shared this week, the adventurer, who has been touring across West Africa on her motorcycle, declared Sierra Leoneans "the most friendliest people in Africa."

"I have ridden through many countries, but Sierra Leone is different," she said in the clip. "Sierra Leoneans are naturally friendly and always willing to help. From the moment you arrive, people will greet you, check on you, and make sure you are okay. That's just who they are."

The rider, who documented her solo journey through several African nations, praised the warmth she received from strangers on the road, in markets, and in communities across the small West African nation. Her comments struck a chord online, with thousands of Sierra Leoneans and Africans sharing the video with pride.

This is not the first time Sierra Leone has received such recognition. The country has



been rated by several organizations and individual travelers

over the years as one of the friendliest nations on earth.

From post-war recovery to today, visitors often cite

the same thing: the genuine hospitality of Sierra Leoneans. Whether it's offering directions, sharing food, or helping a stranded traveler, that spirit of "we go help you" has become part of our national identity.

Tourism boards, travel bloggers, and international media have all pointed to Sierra Leone's welcoming culture as one of its greatest assets — alongside our beaches, music, and resilience.

For many, the Nigerian motorcyclist's testimony matters because it comes from the road. She wasn't on a guided tour. She was traveling alone, on a bike, through towns and villages. The kind of journey where you truly see how people treat strangers.

Her video is a reminder that in a world that often focuses on our challenges, our humanity still shines through.

As one commenter put it under her post: "This is the Sierra Leone we know. We may not have much, but we have heart."

The video comes at a time when Sierra Leone is working to boost tourism and regional connection. Stories like this help tell the world what statistics can't — that the people are the destination.

12 Tips To Surviving Your First Holiday Together

Whether it's a nice city break or a lovely beach holiday, there's nothing like taking a few days from your own world to see the rest of the world. The process of planning your holiday isn't always so easy, especially when it comes to travelling with your partner.

June 28th marked K and I's 2-year anniversary. We both love travelling and this was a perfect way to start our travel adventures together. First stop, Venice. Why? Well, it's the city of love, right? Or so they say. Plus, it was first on our ever-growing holiday bucket list.

If you're planning your first getaway with your partner then hopefully this post will give you a few tips to help you enjoy your perfect holiday.

TIP 1: Do not commit to a timescale or budget you both cannot keep to.

There's nothing worse than having one person feeling like they are out of their depth. You're going on this trip together so your expectations of what you can afford and buy should be agreed beforehand. Be honest about your finance and give yourselves enough time to prepare. Compromising and communication is key.

TIP 2: Decide in advance how to split travel logistics.

After 2 years, K and I know each other's strengths. I like finding hotels and he's good at planning the activities. So, we agreed I would pay for the flight and hotel and he would sort out the spending money and activities. Every couple is different so it's important to figure out what works for you early on.

TIP 3: Use customer review and tourist websites to plan your holiday.

Customer review websites can give you the real deal on hotels, food, culture, tourist attractions and pretty much everything you need for your holiday. We used [tripadvisor.co.uk](https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk) to find our hotel and K used [europforvisitors.com](https://www.europforvisitors.com) to find the activities in Venice.

TIP 4: Research the price range of food, travel and activities before you travel.

When we arrived in Venice, we spent €35 on a cab to the hotel. It may not sound like much but we could have saved €27 by taking a coach for 30 minutes. When you don't have the luxury of taking out money whenever you want, it's important to know how much you might be looking to spend before you get there.

TIP 5: Don't exchange your money at the airport.

K forgot to exchange some

of his pounds to euros so we had to do it at the airport. Don't be like us! Change your money anywhere else BUT the airport. We actually lost 1p or 2p. It may not sound like much but every little helps when travelling. It's better to exchange at your destination instead of the airport.

TIP 6: Get to the airport at least 3 hours before your flight.

No one likes to be in a rush or worry about missing their flight. If you arrive early enough you won't have to. We



"Life begins at the end of your comfort"



freshen up and relax before our flight. Start your holiday with ease.

TIP 7: See what travel

It's so easy to get lost on social media while in the company of other people. This happens with couples

benefits your bank offers.

Travel insurance is very important and you should have it. But does your bank offer other benefits? Thanks to K's current account with [Barclays](https://www.barclays.com), we were able to use his [DragonPass membership](https://www.dragonpass.com) to access the lounge at the airport whilst we waited. Free food, free drinks, free Wi-Fi, TV and showers. Think I'll get one too!

TIP 8: Avoid using your phone when you are around each other.

too. Doing activities such as playing card games with each other can help you avoid the antisocial behaviour that social media brings. Plus, it helps kill time and keep you awake while you wait.

TIP 9: Familiarise yourself with your hotel location on the first day.

Getting to know the area you'll spend your next few nights helps you plan and navigate your way around. Find where the nearest restaurants, supermarkets, bus, trains and local shops are as it will come in handy. Lucky for us, our hotel was within 10-15 minutes of all these places and a McDonald too. Winning!

TIP 10: Embrace the culture, food and language.

We all have our preferences. Whether it's food, clothing, or the language we use, we like what we are familiar with. Going on holiday means putting all that aside for a minute to truly experience what the place has to offer. Try something new and if you don't like it then at least you'll know. Do it for the gram!

TIP 11: Relax and capture moments together.

That's the whole point of going on holiday, right? To relax, explore and create moments. Share the responsibility of capturing moments and discovering a new world together. Find humour in every situation and don't let the little things bother you. Love, laughter and memories are the only thing you should be making.

TIP 12: Keep your trip short, sweet with activities you both like.

Avoid setting a tight schedule because a holiday shouldn't be a chore of things you have to do. Go with the flow and leave some room for doing nothing but relaxing together. No one wants to come back from a holiday feeling more tired than they left.



Missed the last edition of Shop With The Stars? This is the moment you need to see

C-Bolt, the President of All-Stars, hit the Red Carpet and owned it. He sat down for a powerful interview.

ICONA London gave him the full VIP tour of Wilkinson Road. And we didn't let a legend walk out empty-handed.

In appreciation, ICONA London gifted C-Bolt a brand new freezer. That's how we honor greatness. That's Shop With The Stars.

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#CBolt #SaloneToTheWorld







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Africell CEO Shadi Al-Gerjawi Rallies Support for Fourah Bay College's Bicentennial Transformation

The Chief Executive Officer of Africell Sierra Leone, Shadi Al-Gerjawi, has called on the private sector, investors, alumni, development partners and friends of Fourah Bay College (FBC) to unite in support of an ambitious campaign to transform and modernize Sierra Leone's oldest institution of higher learning ahead of its historic 200th anniversary in 2027.

In a public appeal issued as part of the College's Bicentennial celebration campaign, Al-Gerjawi, who described himself as a proud Fourahbite, urged stakeholders to invest in the future of the institution and help preserve its rich academic legacy for generations to come.

He emphasized that Fourah Bay College has played a pivotal role in producing leaders and professionals who have contributed significantly to Sierra Leone and the wider African continent. He noted that the bicentennial celebration presents a unique opportunity to reposition the institution as a modern centre of excellence.

Using the campaign slogan, "A Legacy Worth Transforming. A Future Worth Building," the Africell Sierra Leone CEO appealed to the private sector, investors, friends and alumni to partner with the College in implementing major infrastructure and innovation projects that will strengthen its academic environment.

According to the campaign, priority

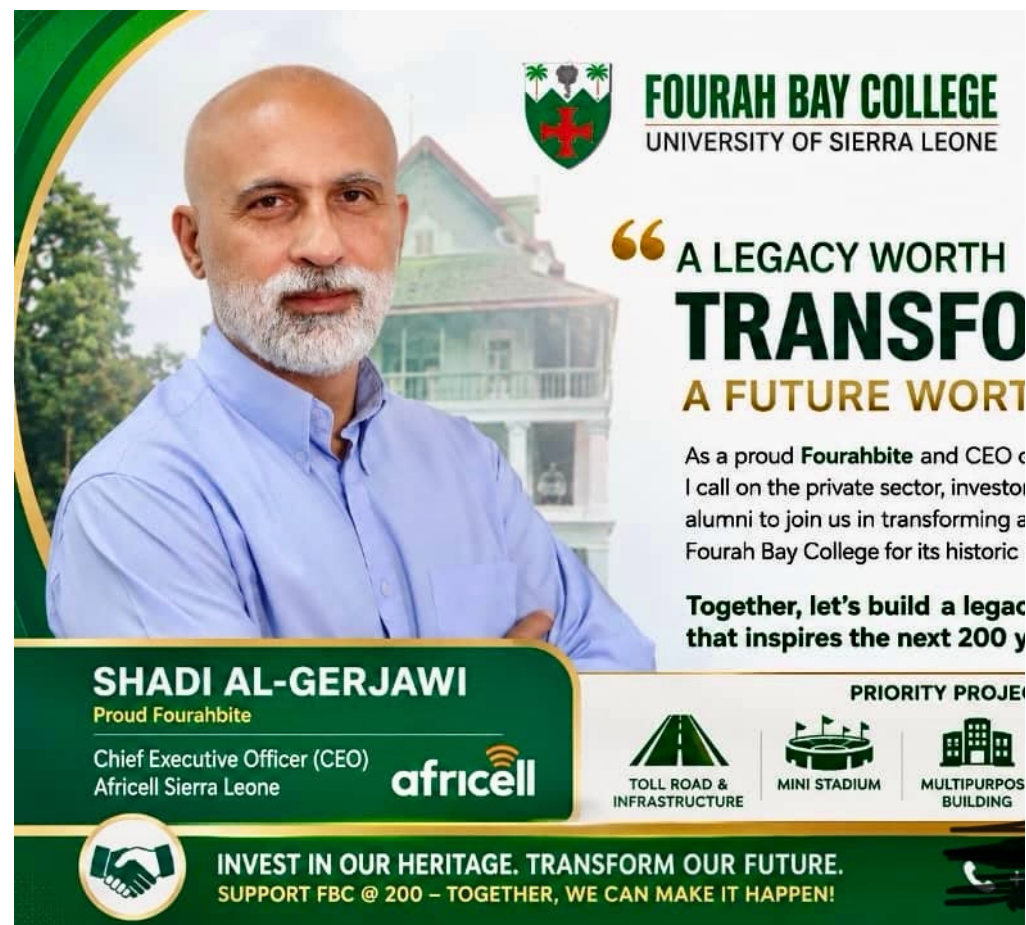
development projects include the construction of improved toll road infrastructure, a mini stadium, a multi-purpose building, student hostels, and expanded digitization and innovation facilities aimed at enhancing teaching, learning and research.

Al-Gerjawi stressed that collective action is essential to ensure the institution remains competitive and continues producing graduates capable of driving national development.

He further encouraged all Fourah Bay College alumni and supporters to contribute towards the transformation agenda, stating that the initiative is about building a lasting legacy that will inspire the next 200 years.

The campaign concludes with a strong call for national support under the theme: "Invest in Our Heritage. Transform Our Future. Support FBC @ 200 – Together, We Can Make It Happen."

The bicentennial celebration marks a historic milestone for Fourah Bay College, which was established in 1827 and remains one of West Africa's most respected institutions of higher education. The anniversary is expected to bring together alumni, government officials, development partners, corporate institutions and friends of the College in support of its long-term transformation and modernization agenda.



FOURAH BAY COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF SIERRA LEONE

"A LEGACY WORTH TRANSFORMING. A FUTURE WORTH BUILDING."

As a proud Fourahbite and CEO of Africell, I call on the private sector, investors, alumni to join us in transforming Fourah Bay College for its historic 200th anniversary.

Together, let's build a legacy that inspires the next 200 years.

SHADI AL-GERJAWI
Proud Fourahbite
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Africell Sierra Leone

PRIORITY PROJECTS

- TOLL ROAD & INFRASTRUCTURE
- MINI STADIUM
- MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING

INVEST IN OUR HERITAGE. TRANSFORM OUR FUTURE.
SUPPORT FBC @ 200 – TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN!

FASHION TIPS



30 DAY HAPPINESS CHALLENGE

30-Day Happiness Challenge

1 Write down 3 things you're grateful for today	2 Take a 10 mins. walk outside	3 Treat yourself to an activity that brings you joy	4 Practice deep breathing for 5 minutes to relax your mind and body	5 Reach out to a friend and express your appreciation for them
6 Try a new hobby	7 Disconnect from social media for the day	8 Start your day with a healthy breakfast	9 Do a random act of kindness	10 Listen to your favorite uplifting music for a few mins.
11 Spend 10 mins. journaling about your thoughts and emotions	12 Engage in a mindfulness exercise	13 Watch a funny video or movie that brings laughter	14 Declutter a small area of your living space	15 Enjoy a refreshing superfoods drink
16 Practice a simple stretching routine	17 Plan a future activity or trip	18 Write down a list of your strengths	19 Spend quality time with family or friends	20 Try a new healthy recipe or snack
21 Engage in brief meditation before bed	22 Connect with a friend or loved one through a phone call	23 Take a few minutes to visualize your goals and aspirations	24 Practice positive affirmations	25 Do a digital detox and refrain from screens for an hour before bed
26 Learn something new by reading an interesting article or book	27 Take a few mins. to appreciate and reflect on your accomplishments	28 Practice self-care by indulging in a warm bath or shower	29 Write a letter of gratitude to someone who has positively impacted your life	30 Reflect on the past month and celebrate your progress. Treat yourself to something special!

Movie Recommendation:

Here are some movie recommendations for a family movie night





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Winstina Taylor Thank you Message

From the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU! □□□□I am truly overwhelmed by the outpouring of love shown to me on my birthday. To everyone who called, texted, sent messages, posted on my timeline, tagged me in your stories, prayed for me, gave gifts, or took a moment out of your day to wish me a Happy Birthday—thank you! Thank you for celebrating another year of life with me. I love and appreciate every one of you more than words can express. Here's to another year of purpose, growth, and God's amazing grace

Thank You

FROM THE BOTTOM OF
MY HEART,

I want to extend my deepest
and most heartfelt **THANK YOU**
to everyone who made my
birthday so special!

- ♥ To those who called,
texted, and sent messages
- ♥ To those who posted
on my wall and in my stories
- ♥ To those who showed me
love near and far
- ♥ To those who prayed
for me and celebrated me
in their own way

Your love, kindness, and
thoughtfulness did not go
unnoticed. You truly made
my day unforgettable!

I feel so blessed and grateful
to have such amazing people
in my life.

I APPRECIATE YOU ALL MORE
THAN WORDS CAN SAY!

*Birthday Love Always,
Dr. Winstina Taylor*

July 5th

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