



ADDRESS BY

HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT JULIUS

MAADA BIO

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL
LAUNCH OF THE RING ROAD PROJECT –**

HILL STATION TO REGENT,

14 NOVEMBER 2018.

Limkokwing to Regent Road 2

His Excellency, the Ambassador to the People's Republic of China,

Ministers of Government Present,

Members of Parliament,

The Mayor, Municipality of Freetown,

Development Partners,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I will keep this short and to the point. I have a reputation for not talking too much and a growing reputation for asking questions. I will not ask questions today. Today, I will be talking. And when I talk, I do. In the New Direction Government, we talk and we do.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our New Direction government is focused on making public infrastructural development purposeful. The costs must not be exorbitant and must not be inflated by dishonest public officials. The process of project execution and management should be transparent and the public works project must be delivered in a timely fashion. That is what we believe in and that is what we do.

We believe that the people of Regent Village and beyond deserve a road that is safe, paved, and built to international standards. We believe that the people of Regent and surrounding areas deserve a road that decreases travel time and travel costs while increasing mobility and social inclusion. We believe that the people of Regent and surrounding areas deserve safe and timely access to services, jobs, schools, and hospitals. We believe that the people of Regent and surrounding areas deserve to have their areas opened up for great potential investments. As I said

Limkokwing to Regent Road 3

earlier, it is primarily about making Regent and surrounding areas and our city in general safe, conducive and accessible for businesses and for our citizens.

The rehabilitation project is a grant from The People's Republic of China to the people of The Republic of Sierra Leone. We are not going to be tied down to decades of debt as a consequence. In the New Direction, we get infrastructural developments done without burdening Sierra Leoneans with hundreds of millions of irrational debt. Nobody will steal a penny from the grant money. Our fight against graft and corruption is a sustained and robust one.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

For this project, my government is going to rehabilitate and upgrade the 3.2 Km Ring Road from Limkokwing University to Regent Village. The technical standard will comply with international and local best practices. This road will be a 2-way 4-lane road for just over 2.6 KM of the road and a 2-way 2-lane road for the rest. The road connects seamlessly into the ongoing construction of the new Juba bridge and related infrastructural improvements that will ease traffic congestion and make those areas more accessible for citizens and for businesses.

This project is good for providing access to social and health services; it is good for business opportunities; it is good for schoolchildren commuting to school; it is good for workers; it is good for Sierra Leoneans. Once again, I thank all our development partners, the Presidential Infrastructure Initiative team, MDAs, and our contractors who have promised to deliver on time. With this, I now formally commission the start of work on the Limkokwing to Regent Ring Road project.