



PRESS RELEASE

President Julius Maada Bio Departs for 32nd African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

State House, Freetown, Friday 8 February 2019 - His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio has departed Sierra Leone Friday 8 February 2019 for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to attend the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union slated for 9 - 11 February 2019.

The theme for this 32nd Ordinary Session is: "Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa."

While at the African Union, His Excellency President Bio is scheduled to hold a series of bilateral meetings on the margins with other African leaders to discuss trade, Agriculture and air transportation.

On Saturday, 9 February, as Chairman of the C-10 African Heads of State on UN Security Council reforms, he will present a report that reaffirms the African Common position as articulated in the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration. The report is expected to highlight progress made in intergovernmental negotiations with various interest groups within the UN system.

President Bio is also expected to enjoin African leaders to continue supporting the Common position as it is the only way Africa as a region can right the historical injustice of being excluded from the permanent category and unfairly underrepresented in the non-permanent category of the UN Security Council.

In Ethiopia, President Bio is also expected to meet with global banking officials including the Head of the African Development Bank to discuss purposeful investments in key sectors that will drive Sierra Leone's economy.

The President is expected to return to Sierra Leone on Tuesday, 12 February, 2019.

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