



**MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY TO ALL
MUSLIMS BY HIS EXCELLENCY,
DR. JULIUS MAADA BIO,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SIERRA LEONE, ON THE EVE OF
RAMADAN. 23 APRIL 2020**

My fellow citizens:

Asalamualaikum warahamatu-ilahi ta allah wa barakatuhu

On this eve of the Holy month of Ramadan and the Feast of *Id Ul Fitr* that concludes it, I wish all our Muslim compatriots abundant blessings and spiritual insight.

I pray that *Allah subhanahu wattahallah* accepts with His divine favour your supplications and may He grant you blessings and forgiveness for your prayers and good deeds.

Unlike in the past, this Ramadan is coming at a very difficult time for us and the world at large. It comes at a time when we are strongly advised to not congregate in our holy Masjids because of the prevailing pandemic.

My Government has agreed with the Muslim leadership that although Masjids shall remain closed, the call for prayers (Azan) shall be sounded for both *suhur* and *Iftar* to remind all fasters of the time for their obligations.

As we observe, break our fast, and share meals, let us be reminded of all health and social distancing advisories.

Fellow citizens, we are reminded at times like these that only *Allah subhanahu wattahallah* understands our needs and protects us with his divine grace when our humanity and our very existence is threatened.

Let us use this period of fasting to pray to *Allah subhanahu wattahallah* for his grace and mercies to wipe out this sickness from Sierra Leone and around the world.

May the adversity and challenges we face as persons, families, communities, and as a nation be resolved by His Divine Grace. Let us pray collectively for a progressive and unified Sierra Leone. May our spiritual epiphanies during this Holy month inspire us to live with clarity, purpose, and solidarity with our fellow Sierra Leoneans.

I call on all Sierra Leoneans to show kindness and peace to our Muslim brothers and sisters as they observe this holy month in peace.

Assalamu alaikum