



**SPEAKING NOTES FOR HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT
DR. JULIUS MAADA BIO ON THE ECOWAS
EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE AUTHORITY OF
HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ON THE POLITICAL
CRISIS IN MALI VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE ON MONDAY,
27TH JULY, 2020 AT 10:00 A.M. UNIVERSAL TIME**

1. Opening Courtesies
2. Let me first extend warm greetings from the Government and people of the Republic of Sierra Leone.
3. Let me also, on behalf of the Government and People of Sierra Leone, express my deepest condolences for the loss of lives in Mali and across the ECOWAS community due to insecurity and the global COVID-19 pandemic.
4. I must also convey my sincere appreciation to the Authority of Heads of State and Government for speedily convening this Extraordinary Session on a matter of grave concern to us all.
5. Maintaining peace and stability in the region is critical for our collective development agenda. Our democratic credentials in the region are being challenged. Sierra Leone stands with the rest of ECOWAS on fostering and maintaining a culture of democracy across the region.
6. Excellencies, may I reiterate that it is highly important to maintain peace and order in Mali. Extremist terrorist activity in

the North of Mali has spread to neighbouring Niger, Burkina Faso, and further threatens the security of the entire region.

7. I therefore commend the President of the Commission, Jean – Claude Kassi Brou; Vice President, Madam Finda Koroma; Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, General Francis A. Behanzin; and, Heads of ECOWAS Institutions and agencies for their continued dedication and commitment. I also thank them for closely monitoring the situation in Mali and taking prompt and decisive steps to resolve the impasse.

8. I equally extend my deepest gratitude for the mediation missions. I thank my colleague Heads of State from Niger, Nigeria Ghana Cote D'Ivoire and Senegal for pursuing further peaceful interventions through a visit to Bamako on Thursday, 23rd July, 2020.

9. In line with the views expressed, Sierra Leone condemns all forms of violence and urges all concerned parties to consider the recommendations put forward by the mediation team led by Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, former President of the

Federal Republic of Nigeria. Additionally, Sierra Leone urges strong support for a more robust mandate for MINUSMA.

10. Sierra Leone reaffirms its commitment to and support for a peaceful resolution in Mali and encourages President Keita and all other parties to adhere to the decisions of this extraordinary session within an agreed timeline.

11. Let me conclude by proffering that in order to maintain good governance, peace, and security in the ECOWAS region it is important to resolve the current socio- political crisis in Mali without delay.