



**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, BRIG. GEN. (RTD)
DR. JULIUS MAADA BIO, PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND COMMANDER-
IN- CHIEF OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE
ARMED FORCES, ON THE OCCASION OF THE
LAUNCH OF THE 2021 POPPY WEEK. STATE HOUSE,
11TH NOVEMBER 2021**

Honourable Vice President

The Chief Minister and Ministers of Government present

The Director General, Ministry of Defence

The Chief of Defence Staff, RSLAF

Officers and Members of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces,

Members of the Sierra Leone Ex-Servicemen`s Association

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning,

1. Today, I am reminded of the words of John Maxwell Edmonds, a British codebreaker who published a number of epitaphs that were composed for the graves of those who had made the ultimate sacrifice.

He wrote:

When you go home
Tell them of us, and say,
"For your tomorrow,
We gave our today."

2. Poppy Day is a time of tributes; it is a time of remembrance. It is a time of deep reflection on the values that motivated those who made the ultimate sacrifice and those who bear the scars of their valour and their ordeal.
3. They risked life and limb for causes greater than themselves; for people they did not know and will never know; for principles that live on and make our lives and our world better every day.
4. For each of you who has served in the armed services of our country; who have been on the frontlines during war, during national disasters, during pandemics, and during peace; this symbolic launch of Poppy Week and Remembrance Day reminds us and every one of the value of sacrifice.
5. Today, we join the rest of the Commonwealth of Nations to remember those who have defended, served, and valiantly stood up to be counted when it mattered most.

6. Peace thrives because they stood up; we are free because they cared enough; we are safe because they believe every day that their duty to serve is supreme.
7. I acknowledge the payment by the British Government of welfare Grants to WW11 and Pre-independence Veterans. I wish to join the Sierra Leone Ex-Servicemen's Association in thanking the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League for this laudable humanitarian gesture.
8. Let me also thank the National Remembrance Day Planning Committee for their truly laudable effort in organising this commemoration at very short notice.
9. In the midst of national disasters and adversity, let us be reminded as a nation that although we have been buffeted and shaken by the storms of war, pandemics, and disasters, we have survived together and surmounted challenges together.
10. On that note, it is my profound honour and pleasure to launch the Poppy Week for this year, 2021

I thank you and may God continue to bless Sierra Leone.