



**KEYNOTE STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY,  
DR. JULIUS MAADA BIO, PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AT THE  
OFFICIAL COMMISSIONING OF THE  
TRANSCO CLSG INTERCONNECTIONS,  
TELOMA - 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

The Honourable Vice President,  
Ministers of Government,  
Members of Parliament,  
Our revered Traditional and Community Leaders,  
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,  
Development Partners,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Let me start by expressing gratitude to our development partners - the World Bank, the African Development Bank, GiZ -- and the international community at large, for supporting this project to completion. You have shared our view as a Government that the lack of accessible, reliable, and affordable electricity is a constraint to economic growth and national development.
2. The lesson from developing economies is simple. More electricity means more economic activity and better jobs, more profitable private capital investments, increased manufacturing and technological capacity, increased food production, more innovation, better healthcare and education, greater use of telecommunications, and better quality of life in general.
3. So, for us, as a Government, more energy – especially sustainable and affordable energy -- sits well with our country's development needs and our development agenda. Energy is indeed a critical cross-enabler and a critical driver of development.
4. We are, therefore, eager to use the network to attract investments in small scale manufacturing, agriculture, the service sector, and other small and medium enterprises that enhance the value-chain in diverse areas of the country.
5. My Government has put in place a number of incentives for private companies that seek to locate to rural or peri-urban areas. The availability of electricity, the availability of land, the availability of skilled and educated youthful populations in Kenema and Bo, we think, will make that decision easier for private investors.
6. We will also continue to work with partners to further open up the energy sector to more investments in the areas of energy-generation, transmission and distribution, and in the energy-related service sector.
7. Let me also thank the teams from TRANSCO CLSG, CI Energies/CIE, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Finance, EDSA, and EGTC. We owe you a debt of gratitude for working really hard to ensure today's milestone event. Thank you.

8. Having said this, it now gives me great pleasure to officially switch on the CLSG Electricity Interconnection line at Tiloma.

God bless the people of Kenema and Bo.  
God bless Sierra Leone