



**TOAST REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, DR.  
JULIUS MAADA BIO, PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AT THE  
OFFICIAL STATE DINNER MARKING THE  
OFFICIAL VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY TO THE  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM – 15  
MARCH 2022**

President Nguyen Xuan Phuc  
General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong  
Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh  
Chairman of the National Assembly Vuong Dinh Hue  
Excellencies,  
Honourable Ministers  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Good evening:

Permit me to start by extending my sincere gratitude to President Nguyen Xuan Phuc, not only for the kind words he has said this evening, but also for the generous invitation he extended to me to visit this beautiful and peaceful country. Thank you for sharing this country's beauty and charm with us and I thank you for the excellent hospitality accorded me and my delegation since our arrival here. We are very grateful.

Late President Ho Chi Minh is reported to have once said about Africa and its fight for independence: "We are glad at your victories and saddened at your sufferings." Your country's strong sense of empathy, community, tolerance, and solidarity is evident in the late great leader's words.

On April 18, 2018, Late President Trần Đại Quang of blessed memory, sent me a congratulatory message on my election as President of Sierra Leone. In that gesture, President Quang told us that we, in Sierra Leone, had not been forgotten by him and the people of Vietnam.

Sierra Leone, like Vietnam, has triumphed over a history of adversity and war. But Sierra Leone is inspired by the patriotism, commitment, and staying power of the people of Vietnam. Out of war, you have developed a peaceful and thriving nation.

But we are even more inspired that your leadership took bold and well-thought-out decisions to open up the economy, lower the cost of doing business, and invest in purposeful infrastructure and human capital development. No doubt, the impact of those decisions is evident in how well your country has thrived since then. Our country's new direction philosophy is closely aligned with that mindset that transformed this nation.

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Within a spirit of solidarity and mutual cooperation, Sierra Leone is eager to share ideas and experiences, explore strengths, and offer opportunities for closer ties between our two friendly nations. We believe there is a lot to learn from Vietnam and Sierra Leone is eager to strengthen and deepen our ties at all levels.

I am informed that immediately after Tet, the new year, the peach blossom signifies warmth, wealth, and good fortune. We cannot have come at a better time to discuss how both our countries can work together in a spirit of warm enduring friendship and cooperation for our mutual benefit.

Let me close by thanking the Government and people of Vietnam for this historic gesture of friendship. We will always remember your kindness.

***Chúng tôi sẽ nhớ lòng tốt của bạn.***