



**REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, BRIG GEN.  
(RTD) DR. JULIUS MAADA BIO, PRESIDENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AT  
EVENTS MARKING INTERNATIONAL  
PEACEKEEPING DAY, KENYA, NAIROBI, 29<sup>TH</sup>  
MAY 2022**

Chief of Defence Staff, General Robert Kibochi,

## INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING DAY 2

Defence Chiefs and General Staff,  
Lt. General Daniel Ishmael Opande, former Commander of UNAMSIL,  
The United Nations Representative,  
Officers and Men of the Kenya Defence Forces,  
Distinguished Veterans of Peacekeeping Contingents,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Good afternoon.

1. On this International Day of Peacekeeping, may I request a moment of dedicated silence and reflection to remember the ultimate sacrifices of fallen peacekeepers and their families all over the world?
2. May Allah subhanahu wa ta-ala grant them forgiveness and eternal peace. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
3. I am particularly pleased, as President of Sierra Leone, to be able to travel to Kenya and formally say "thank you" to the commanders, officers, men and women of KENBATT contingents deployed to Sierra Leone.
4. To the fallen in Sierra Leone, I read their names with deep sorrow but great appreciation:  
Corporal Jeremiah Obuya,  
Corporal Evans Kamande,  
Private Robert Wanyama,  
Private Khamis Yunis, all of KENBATT 5
5. On behalf of the nation of Sierra Leone, we eulogise their names with deep gratitude. We thank their families with great appreciation. We thank the nation of Kenya for offering the lives of those heroes for the sake of peace in Sierra Leone.
6. Their lives give currency to the words of the Roman senator and historian, Tacitus, that "In valour, there is hope." Their uncommon valour and your great sacrifices contributed immensely to efforts to restore peace in Sierra Leone.
7. To the families and comrades of the fallen, to the injured and those who were deeply scarred by their service to our nation, know today that your sacrifices did not go in vain. If Sierra Leone has today transitioned out of the UN Peacebuilding framework and become the fourth most peaceful democracy in Africa, it is because

## INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING DAY 3

of the contributions and immense sacrifices of the brave officers, men and women of the Kenya Defence Forces. So, I want to again say "Thank You." The history of peace in Sierra Leone will be incomplete without prominent mention of your valour and selfless service.

8. But I also want to particularly commend the President and people of the Republic of Kenya for their great contribution to attaining the broader vision of the AU Agenda 2063 – of working towards "an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa driven by its own citizens, representing a dynamic force in the international arena." I see Kenya's contributions to international peacekeeping within that context and we are very much grateful for the continental leadership.
9. This year's theme, "People, Peace, Progress: The Power of Partnerships" reminds us why global solidarity is required for confronting the complex but interrelated continental and global challenges of our time. We can only make great progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a peaceful world where multilateralism, international cooperation, and international partnerships underlie our every effort. The contributions, voices, and views of 1.2 billion Africans must be considered in all such international dialogues. It is in that regard that we are pursuing the reform of the United Nations based on the African Common Position.
10. Let me close by once more expressing how exceedingly grateful we are as a nation for the efforts of the Kenya Defence Forces, the United Nations, and our international friends in supporting the restoration of peace in Sierra Leone. We owe you a debt of gratitude for helping to stabilise our nation and to restore peace. Twenty years on, your contribution to the gains we have made as a nation are evident in a peaceful, progressive and democratic Sierra Leone.

I thank you all for your kind attention.