



**REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, DR.  
JULIUS MAADA BIO, PRESIDENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE, AS  
GUEST OF HONOUR ON MADARAKA  
DAY. NAIROBI, UHURU GARDENS,  
1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2022**

Shukrani sana, Your Excellency, Shukrani sana!

Your Excellency, The Honourable Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya;

The Honourable William Ruto, Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya;

Your Excellency, Mrs. Margaret Kenyatta, First Lady of the Republic of Kenya;

The First Lady of the Republic of Sierra Leone

Members of Government and Hon. Cabinet Secretaries present;

Members of the National Assembly and Senate present;

Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps present;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

Outstanding Kenyans who have made this visit both remarkable and memorable,

Habari yenu Kenya!

Habari za mchana! (Good afternoon)

1. I am truly honoured and ever grateful to President Kenyatta, and to you, the people of Kenya, for the generous invitation to join Kenyans in celebrating Madaraka Day on these hallowed grounds, Uhuru Gardens. Asante Sana, Kenya! Congratulations!
2. It is a momentous day, as President Kenyatta and previous speakers have indicated. It is a day on which Kenyans asserted that, through the dignity of independence and self-governance, they would work hard, together, to create a future of which generations unborn would be proud.
3. In the spirit of nation-building and harambee, the new nation reflected on the blood, the tears, and the sweat that had gone into that unrelenting national effort from ordinary Kenyans and their leaders.
4. As Mzee Jomo Kenyatta of blessed memory reminded Kenyans, "Our children will learn about the heroes of the past; but our task is to make ourselves the architects of the future." On this 59<sup>th</sup> Madaraka Day, I can confidently say that Kenyans have embraced that task and acquitted themselves very well. Congratulations.
5. Our paths since independence for our nascent African nations of Kenya and Sierra Leone may have been different. In each of our own ways, it has been arduous, maybe not what our forefathers imagined, and probably best left untold.
6. But we can both celebrate in Kenya and in Sierra Leone that we have been through the crucible; we have faced and mastered our fears and doubts; we have triumphed over adversity; and, we have worked hard to build just, inclusive, and peaceful nations at both ends of our great continent.
7. But more importantly, the fraternal bond between our two nations keeps getting stronger. On Sunday, I joined the Kenya Defence Forces to celebrate the heroism of four young Kenyans and the sacrifices of thousands of Kenyan soldiers who fought to restore peace and stability in Sierra Leone. If we are

today the fourth most peaceful democracy in Africa, it is partly because of the sacrifice of Kenyans. Thank you.

8. When Ebola struck, Kenyan nurses and doctors were at hand to see us through. When we faced challenges for computing equipment for our first ever digital population census, President Kenyatta extended a hand of typical Kenyan generosity. And there is so much more to say.
9. Our two nations have stood together in war, in peace, and in solidarity. We have pursued a collective agenda and continued to deepen cooperation at the bilateral and multilateral levels. President Kenyatta's great work in this country [from electricity, ports, roads, railway, housing, to healthcare, education, food security and growing the Kenyan economy through trade and investment] has showed us in Sierra Leone what is possible. We are therefore also here to strengthen our ties with Kenya in areas of international cooperation, peace and security, wildlife and tourism, ICT and education, and trade and investment.
10. In this spirit of interdependence with a view to the mutual benefit of our two nations, let me close by reminding us of two proverbs – one Kikuyu from Kenya and one, Mende from Sierra Leone.
11. The first from Kenya: "One log does not make a bridge," reminds us that for safety and strength, and for reassurance that we will continue to traverse difficulties together, we must continue to work together and make our bonds even stronger.
12. The second from Sierra Leone: "One tree does not make a forest" (Ngu yia eh wola), reminds us that only through interdependence and unity of purpose can we truly grow stronger and be more formidable as nations.
13. On this 59<sup>th</sup> Madaraka, let me once more say "Hongera Sana" Kenya! Asante Sana and God bless the Republic of Kenya.