



**REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, DR.
JULIUS MAADA BIO, PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA
LEONE, AT THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS OF NACSA, 17TH
JUNE 2022**

Ministers of Government,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Traditional Leaders and Leaders of Councils,
Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps,
Development Partners,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good morning

1. Twenty years ago, as the din of civil war violence was dying down, an SLPP Government led by President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, thought it fit to establish a single agency that would coordinate reconstruction, resettlement, and rehabilitation initiatives across the country.
2. As previous speakers have indicated, the agency was designed to implement social protection programmes for a very vulnerable population in the wake of the mass displacement and destruction of the civil war.
3. This was not just another ad hoc response agency. It was organised, staffed, and resourced to coordinate government, development partner, and other stakeholder responses to the prevailing vulnerability of persons and fragility of communities.
4. Twenty years on, I also want to thank our partners for their sustained commitment and support in providing resources for the work of NaCSA. Among others, I want to thank the World Bank; European Union; the United Nations family (UNICEF, UNDP, WFP, UNHCR); German Development Bank (KfW); German Cooperation (GIZ); the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB); and the African Development Bank (AfDB). I must also add that the Government has maintained a provided a significant share of resources for funding NaCSA programmes and projects.
5. In addition to the funding basket, I believe we can collaborate even further with our traditional and probably non-traditional partners to increase the number of available resource and technical support

streams. There are also additional areas of cooperation including rural housing and more focus on strengthening primary health care and preventative health to consider.

6. There are also opportunities through public-private partnerships to realise community development and community resilience outcomes. NaCSA can look into those possibilities and think beyond its current mandate.
7. The community-driven development focus of NaCSA, supported by our partners, has ensured that NaCSA's interventions have been tailored to address vulnerability and social protection problems in community-specific ways. This targeted approach means that communities are carefully selected across the nation based on needs assessments in order to deliver specific development interventions. That is good; that is fair; that is right. NaCSA is a national agency.
8. Because of NaCSA's work, we have been able to scale up the provision of social and economic infrastructure and services in communities across the country. There is hardly any district or chiefdom that has not benefited from schools, markets, community centres, health centres, bridges, rural roads, potable water systems, renewable energy installations, and other social infrastructure built by NaCSA.
9. NaCSA's work has also supported food security and entrepreneurship for otherwise vulnerable social groups. Small microenterprise grants and loans have provided livelihood streams for very poor families. Skills development projects have taught vulnerable population groups including persons with disability with skillsets they can and have used to make a decent living. Interventions in agriculture have increased yield per acreage and helped otherwise hungry communities to feed themselves and their children. There are also soft-skills in the areas of agricultural extension, introducing new high-yield varieties, and focusing on climate-friendly rural agricultural practices.
10. Through twenty years, millions of families have benefitted from social safety net programmes administered by NaCSA including unconditional cash transfers. Particularly in times of epidemics and

pandemics, where my Government's response was predicated on the simple but valid maxim "to protect lives and livelihoods," NaCSA's programmes were even more relevant. Beneficiaries of COVID-19 cash transfers recognised just how much a little help from Government prevented vulnerable population groups, at-risk families, children, and women from going hungry during those very lean times.

11. Twenty Years down the line, NaCSA's commitment to delivering sustainable development outcomes and ensuring community resilience is not in doubt. I am very proud of their mission and their achievements and it is with great pleasure that I launch the 20th anniversary celebrations of the National Commission for Social Action.

I thank you for your attention.