



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY DR JULIUS MAADA BIO
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE**

AT THE

**COMMISSIONING OF THE TRANSIT TRANSPORT
TERMINAL AND TRAFFIC SIGNAL**

FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE

NOVEMBER 27, 2024

- **MINISTERS OF GOVERNMENT**
- **DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**
- **DISTINGUISHED GUESTS**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

GOOD MORNING,

1. Today, we mark a significant milestone in Sierra Leone's journey towards a more efficient, inclusive, and sustainable transportation system.

- 2.** The commissioning of the **Transit Transport Terminal and Traffic Signal System** is a pivotal step in our commitment to boost economic growth and enhance public safety, ensuring a brighter future for Sierra Leone.

- 3.** This initiative represents a critical milestone in our collective efforts to modernise Sierra Leone's infrastructure and foster socio-economic development for our people, as stated in my Government's **BIG FIVE Agenda**.

4. This is yet another milestone in the Government-Funded and World Bank-funded **Integrated and Resilient Urban Mobility Project (IRUMP)**, which was approved in June 2019.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

- 5.** Our decisions about transportation have a profound impact on daily life.

- 6.** They determine the connections and barriers that people will encounter in their daily lives.

- 7.** They influence how hard or easy it will be for them to get where they need and want to go.

8. My Government is acutely aware of the challenges posed by our inadequate transport systems and poorly regulated traffic.

9. These issues have hindered economic activities and contributed to inefficiencies, congestion, and accidents that affect the well-being of our citizens.

10. Earlier this year, we unveiled the 50 high-capacity buses, which transport over 26,000 commuters daily.

11. These buses help to improve public transport services and reduce congestion on key corridors.

12. Today, we take yet another decisive step towards transforming our challenges into opportunities for progress.

13. The **Transit Transport Terminal** is a product of modernity and efficiency.

14. This facility will enhance connectivity within our cities and across regions by providing a centralised hub for public and private transportation.

15. It will serve as a critical platform for streamlining the movement of goods and people, reducing delays, and improving overall logistics, thereby making daily

commutes and business operations more efficient for our citizens.

16. This means less time spent in traffic, more time for productive activities, and a safer, more convenient transportation experience for all.

17. Furthermore, the terminal is designed to promote safety, environmental sustainability, and accessibility for all, including persons with disabilities.

18. The **Traffic Signal System** we are commissioning today also **marks a significant leap forward.**

19. Regulating traffic flow, reducing congestion, and enhancing road safety will not only improve commuters' daily lives but also demonstrate our commitment to embracing smart urban transport solutions.

20. The achievements we celebrate today have been made possible by the vision and dedication of all key stakeholders.

21. I extend my deepest gratitude to our **development partners, local authorities, and the Ministry of Transport and Aviation.**

22. Your leadership and collaborative efforts have been integral to the realisation of this project. Each one of you has played a crucial role in this success.

23. Your hard work underscores what we can achieve when we work together for the greater good of Sierra Leone.

24. However, our journey does not end here. The success of this infrastructure depends on all of us.

25. It must be maintained and utilised responsibly to maximise its benefits.

26. Let us all take ownership of this achievement and ensure its sustainability.

27. I urge all transport operators, commuters, and citizens to embrace the opportunities these facilities offer and to commit to ensuring their longevity.

28. Let us continue to move forward together, united in purpose and ambition, as we work to make Sierra Leone a beacon of progress and prosperity.

**29. With great pride and hope for the future, I
NOW OFFICIALLY COMMISSION THE TRANSIT
TRANSPORT TERMINAL AND TRAFFIC SIGNAL
SYSTEM.**

30. May they serve our nation well.

31. Thank you, and God bless Sierra Leone.