



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY DR JULIUS MAADA BIO

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

AND LEADER OF THE SIERRA LEONE PEOPLE'S

PARTY (SLPP)

ON THE OCCASION OF

INAUGURATION DINNER OF THE NEW SLPP

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

THEME OF THE NIGHT: "THE SLPP: PREPARING

FOR THE SIERRA LEONE WE ARE BECOMING."

WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2025

AT

THE FREETOWN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

CENTRE

FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE

I. SALUTATIONS

- THE HONOURABLE VICE PRESIDENT AND
DEPUTY LEADER OF OUR PARTY,**
- OUR ESTEEMED ELDERS,**
- OUR NEWLY ELECTED NATIONAL CHAIRMAN
AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,**
- OUR CHERISHED DELEGATES AND MEMBERS
OF THE SLPP,**
- OUR PATRIOTIC PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO
CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THIS GOVERNMENT
AND THIS PARTY,**
- OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS WHO
CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR GOVERNMENT
AND THIS PARTY,**

- **DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**
- **GOOD EVENING — AND MERRY CHRISTMAS IN ADVANCE TO ALL OF YOU.**
- **ONE COUNTRY, ONE PEOPLE. SLPP.**

II. OPENING REMARKS

MY GREAT SLPP FAMILY,

- 1. Tonight is a celebration of legacy, leadership, and renewal.**
- 2. We gather under a theme that speaks not only to where we are but to where we are**

deliberately going: **“The SLPP: Preparing for the Sierra Leone We Are Becoming.”**

3. Not the Sierra Leone of yesterday, Not even the Sierra Leone of today, but **the Sierra Leone that is rising, growing, evolving.**

4. This theme reminds us that a nation is not shaped by nostalgia, nor by slogans, but **by choices — steady, disciplined choices made over time.**

5. The Sierra Leone we are becoming is not defined by yesterday's limits. It is not constrained by today's challenges.
6. It is guided by the confidence, clarity, and purpose with which we prepare for tomorrow.
7. And this **great Party — your Party — Our Party** — must be at the centre of shaping that future.
8. Because the future does not arrive by chance; it is organised, it is guided, and it is earned.

9. This evening, therefore, is more than an inauguration. It is a renewal of spirit.

10. It is a **moment of continuity and confidence** — a reaffirmation of our values and a recommitment to the principles that have sustained the SLPP across generations.

11. To **the organisers** who prepared this wonderful evening: Thank you for hosting an event that reflects the excellence of the SLPP.

12. To our diaspora brothers and sisters — welcome home. Your loyalty, your engagement and your belief in this Party continue to strengthen us.

13. To our delegates and members who have travelled from towns, villages, and districts across our beloved nation — your presence here affirms the national soul of the SLPP.

14. And to our public servants, thank you for serving Sierra Leone with honour and for upholding the values that bind this Party and this nation together.

15. Tonight, we celebrate you all.

III. THE IDENTITY OF THE SLPP — OUR POLITICAL SOUL

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

16. The SLPP is not sustained by power, position, or personality. It is sustained by principle.

17. By **the ideals of social democracy** — the conviction that government exists to serve the people; that opportunity must be shared, not hoarded; that justice must be accessible, not selective; and that

discipline and integrity must guide public life.

18. We believe in **the dignity of every Sierra Leonean as a responsibility.**

19. We are **the Party whose story is inseparable from the nation's story** — founded on solidarity, strengthened by sacrifice, and shaped by a tradition of service and nation-building.

20. And as we gather this evening in the spirit of Christmas, we reaffirm that the SLPP remains the moral compass of Sierra Leone.

21. Values endure only when they are carried

by people — men and women willing to serve, to organise, and to lead with discipline.

22. Institutions are strengthened not by

moments, but **by stewardship** — by those who accept responsibility in their time and pass it on with care.

23. Tonight, therefore, we pause to recognise

service.

24. We honour those who have carried this Party through seasons of challenge and achievement, and we welcome those now entrusted with leading its next chapter.

25. To the **outgoing Executive Council, the Chairman Emeritus, Dr Prince Alex Harding and his Team:** Your leadership, service and sacrifices strengthened this movement. For all you have done, **we thank you.**

26. You laid a firm foundation. It is now our responsibility to build upon it — carefully, collectively, and with respect.

27. To the **newly elected National Executive Council, led by the Chairman, Sir Jimmy Batilo Songa:** You assume office at a moment of both responsibility and great opportunity.

28. Tonight, **leadership is placed upon your shoulders — not as a privilege, but as a trust.**

29. A **trust to unify. A trust to organise.**
A **trust to prepare this Party** for the challenges and opportunities beyond.

30. Lead with courage. Lead with clarity. Lead with humility. Lead with discipline.

31. Lead with the awareness that your decisions will shape not just this **Party but the Sierra Leone we are becoming.**

FELLOW MEMBERS

32. Our **National Chairman** is the anchor of our discipline and the guardian of our Party structures.

33. I reaffirm my absolute confidence in **Chairman Jimmy Batilo Songa —**

a leader whose mandate is clear, whose loyalty has been tested, whose discipline has been proven, and whose commitment to the SLPP is beyond question.

34. I implore you all to support the Chairman. Work with him and work through him. Let us collectively strengthen his authority.

35. Because when the Chairman stands firm, the Party stands firm — and when the Party stands firm, **I, as Leader, am better able to devote my full attention to the responsibilities of the State.**

36. Leadership is sustained and unity protected when members show respect for democratic structures. And this is how victories are built.

IV. UNITY, CONDUCT & RESPONSIBILITY — OUR GREATEST POLITICAL CAPITAL

MY FELLOW MEMBERS,

37. Our greatest victories have never come from noise.

38. They have come from unity. From discipline. From a shared sense of purpose.

39. The SLPP is strongest when it moves as one

— guided by principle, not provocation; by order, not impulse.

40. Let us recommit tonight to discipline in our language, respect in our disagreements, and unity in our mission.

41. There is only one SLPP agenda. As Leader, I provide political direction. The Chairman manages the affairs of the Party.

42. When that order is respected, the Party is steady. And when the Party is steady, it is unstoppable.

43. The strength of this movement has always rested on its people.

44. If the SLPP has endured difficult seasons, it is because **our women held the walls firm** — organising, mobilising, sustaining the Party with resilience and resolve.

45. If the SLPP has renewed itself across generations, it is because **our youth kept the fire burning** — carrying our message into new spaces, new conversations, and new possibilities.

46. I have seen that commitment up close: mothers walking long distances to rallies, babies tied to their backs, still chanting **ONE COUNTRY, ONE PEOPLE** with conviction.

47. No leader forgets that sight. No Party survives without that spirit.

48. I have also seen **young men and women** — energetic, courageous, determined — taking our message to villages, streets, and digital spaces, especially in our years of opposition.

49. And let us **honour our men** as well — **the pillars, the organisers, the strategists, and the loyal defenders** who have stood firm in every season.

50. **The SLPP rises when all its people rise — women and men, elders and youth —** standing side by side, united by belief in something greater than themselves

VII. A PERSONAL REFLECTION — MY JOURNEY WITH YOU

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

51. I came into leadership neither by chance nor through shortcuts.

52. I walked the long road. I respected the process. I honoured our Elders. I waited for my turn.

53. This party tested me, shaped me, and trusted me — and I have never taken that lightly.

54. Everything I am today, I owe to the SLPP and to the men and women who kept faith with this movement through seasons of hope and seasons of doubt.

55. That is why I stand before you this evening not as one seeking recognition, but as one conscious of responsibility — responsibility to our values, to our structures, and to the future we are preparing together.

56. Leadership, I have learned, is not about standing above others.

57. It is about standing steadily, especially when the moment demands calm, patience, and resolve.

58. And it is with that spirit that I continue to serve this Party and our nation.

VIII. THE SLPP IN GOVERNMENT — PREPARING THE ECONOMY OF TOMORROW

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

59. We govern in a period of global uncertainty, yet we remain steadfast in our mission to build a stronger Sierra Leone.

60. Step by step, we have strengthened the foundations of our nation — expanding access to education, improving healthcare, advancing food security, increasing energy access, building infrastructure, reforming institutions, and

opening opportunities for women and young people.

61. But governance is not only about what has been done. It is about what is being built.

62. Our vision is a Sierra Leone where farmers prosper, where industries produce, where innovation creates opportunity, where inflation is contained, where jobs are created, and where investment flows with confidence and trust.

63. We are not just managing the present.
We are laying the groundwork for
resilience, productivity, and growth.

64. We are **preparing the economy of the
Sierra Leone we are becoming.**

65. And because nations are built over time,
responsible leadership must always look
beyond the moment.

66. Strong political parties prepare.
Strong institutions endure. And strong
democracies understand the value of
continuity.

IX. SUCCESSION & CONTINUITY — A RESPONSIBLE PARTY PREPARES

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

67. A serious political party plans ahead — not with anxiety but with confidence.

68. When the time comes, our flagbearer process will be **orderly, transparent, and firmly anchored in our Constitution and Party rules.**

69. Competition is natural in a democracy.
Division is not.

70. Unity is not improvised — it is preserved. And continuity is not accidental — it is prepared.

71. The process will be fair. The outcome will be legitimate. And **whoever emerges will inherit a united Party, ready to work and ready to win the General Elections.**

X. VISION FOR 2028 — THE NEXT STEP IN OUR NATIONAL JOURNEY

72. This **National Executive Council** will lead us into **the 2028 General Elections**.

73. They will defend our record, refine our message, and strengthen our organisation at every level.

74. In 2028, we will present the SLPP clearly and confidently as: **the Party of continuity, the Party of stability, and the Party of national progress**.

75. We seek a renewed mandate not for power, but for purpose — to consolidate what has been built, to deepen democratic gains, and to continue shaping the Sierra Leone we are becoming.

XI. POST-2028 — A MOVEMENT BUILT FOR GENERATIONS

76. Beyond 2028, our responsibility does not end — it deepens.

77. We must **continue to build a Party that renews itself over time**, that prepares new leaders, that speaks confidently in modern spaces, and that remains firmly rooted in communities across our nation.

78. A Party that can adapt without losing its soul, grow without forgetting its base and one that remains a steady pillar of national stability, even as times change.

79. The SLPP must not only win elections. We must **help shape the next generation of Sierra Leone's destiny**, because movements that endure are those that

think beyond election cycles and prepare for generations.

80. And let us be honest with ourselves: preparation is not only about ideas or intention. It is also about capacity.

81. Vision needs structure. Organisation requires investment. And discipline must be matched with readiness.

82. To prepare for the future, we must strengthen the financial backbone of our Party.

83. Modern politics requires modern investment — technology, training, mobilisation, communication, and coordination.

84. None of these come by chance, and none of them are free. As we say in Krio, “**Bɛteh sup, na moni kil am.**”

85. A serious Party must be properly organised. That organisation costs money.

86. So, tonight's fundraising is not about excess, and it is not about display. **It is about preparedness —and preparedness is how we win.**

87. When we invest in this Party, we invest in its stability, its continuity, and its ability to serve the nation well.

88. Now, as we look ahead, it is right to pause briefly and acknowledge the journey that has brought us here.

XII. MY LEADERSHIP LEGACY — A TESTAMENT TO SERVICE

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

89. As I reflect on nearly two decades of leadership in this great Party, I do so with gratitude.

90. Politics is a long journey. Some of you started with me from the very beginning.

91. Others joined along the way. All of you, in one way or another, helped shape the journey.

92. Even those who challenged me played their part — sharpening my understanding and strengthening my resolve.

93. Leadership is never a solitary endeavour. It is formed by relationships, tested by moments, and sustained by trust.

94. If history is to judge my service, I hope it will say that I strengthened institutions, upheld unity, honoured process, and **left the SLPP stronger than I found it.**

95. Above all, I hope to be remembered as **a faithful servant of this Party and of the people of Sierra Leone.**

XV. CLOSING REMARKS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

96. Tonight is not only a celebration for the SLPP.

97. It is a reminder that when political parties are disciplined, democratic, and united, the nation itself grows stronger.

98. Strong parties steady democracy, give citizens confidence, and help shape the future with clarity and purpose.

99. As we leave this hall tonight, **let us carry one message in our hearts: We are preparing for the Sierra Leone we are becoming.**

100. Let us organise with purpose, mobilise with conviction, and work together with calm confidence.

101. As we say in Krio, “**Wetin wi build wit two han, nor dae broke easily.**”

What we build together endures.

102. Together, we will strengthen this Party.

Together, we will deepen our democracy.

Together, we will continue building a Sierra Leone worthy of the dreams of our children.

103. May this Christmas season bring peace to your homes, strength to your hearts, and renewed confidence in our nation.

104. Congratulations once again to our **National Elected Council.**

105. Long live the **Sierra Leone People's Party.**

Long live our democracy. And **may God
bless the Republic of Sierra Leone.**

106. THANK YOU — and please enjoy this
Inauguration and Fundraising Dinner.