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ECOWAS CHAIRMAN PRESIDENT JULIUS MAADA BIO OPENS 68TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AUTHORITY OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT, ANNOUNCES LANDMARK ECOWAS MEASURE TO REDUCE COST OF AIR TRAVEL ACROSS WEST AFRICA

Abuja, Nigeria, Sunday, 14 December 2025 - The Chairman of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government and President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, His Excellency Dr Julius Maada Bio, officially opened the 68th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Authority, describing the summit as a defining moment for the future of over 400 million West Africans.

Speaking at the opening ceremony in Abuja, President Bio reflected on ECOWAS' 50-year journey, noting that the golden jubilee calls for renewed unity, courage, and clarity of purpose. The ECOWAS Chairman warned that terrorism, violent extremism, organised crime, and communal conflicts remain grave threats to the stability and development of the region, particularly in the Sahel.

President Bio reaffirmed ECOWAS' zero-tolerance stance on Unconstitutional Changes of Government. He condemned recent threats to constitutional rule in parts of the region and commended swift collective action taken by ECOWAS to defend democratic governance, stressing that the Community will not compromise on democracy, rule of law, and accountable leadership.

PRESIDENT JULIUS MAADA BIO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AND CHAIRMAN OF ECOWAS AUTHORITY, ORDERS THE DEPLOYMENT OF ECOWAS STANDBY FORCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN



ECOWAS COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO
COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO

ECOWAS STATEMENT ON THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN

ECOWAS Commission has received with consternation reports of an attempted military take-over in the Republic of Benin.

ECOWAS strongly condemns this unconstitutional move that represents a subversion of the will of the people of Benin.

ECOWAS calls for the full respect of the Constitution of Benin and salutes the efforts of the Government and the Republican Army in bringing the situation under control.

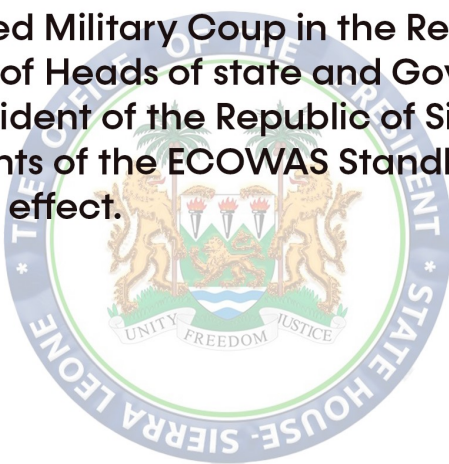
ECOWAS holds the leaders of the plot both individually and collectively responsible for any loss to life and property occasioned by their action.

ECOWAS will support the Government and the people in **all forms necessary, including the deployment of the regional standby force**, to defend the Constitution and the territorial integrity of Benin.

Abuja, 07th December, 2025.

ECOWAS Commission

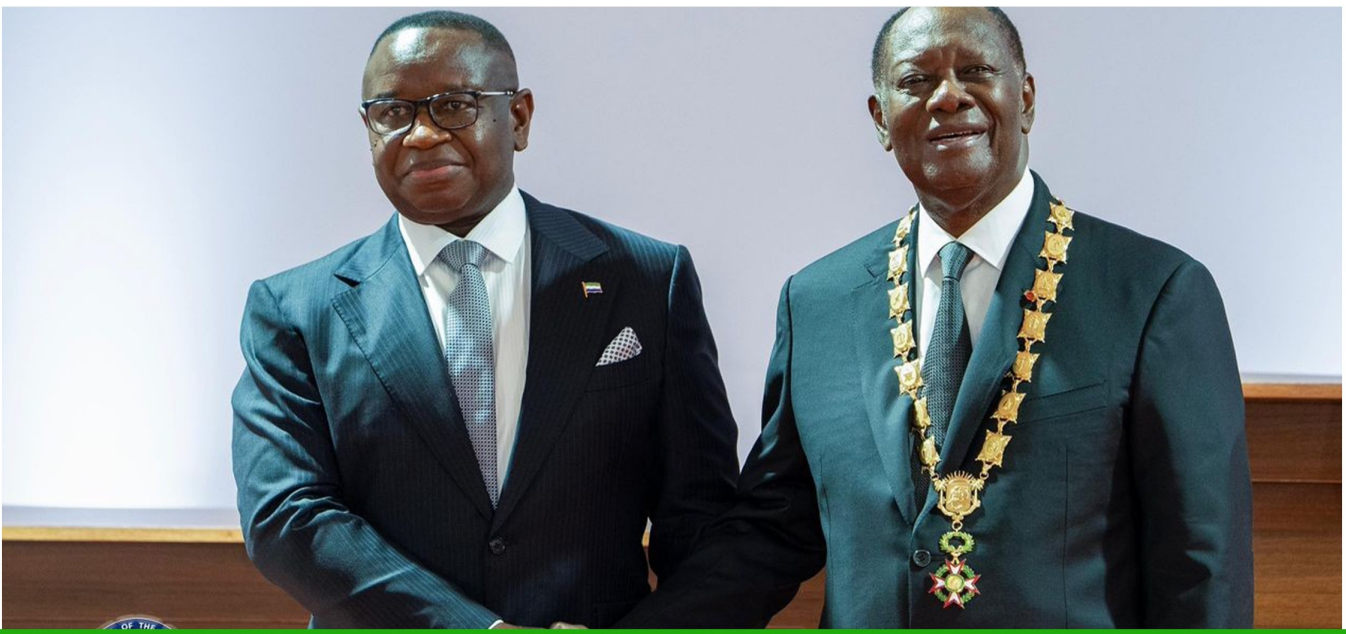
Following an attempted Military Coup in the Republic of Benin, The Chair of ECOWAS Authority of Heads of state and Government, H.E. President Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, ordered the deployment of elements of the ECOWAS Standby Force to the Republic of Benin with immediate effect.



SIERRA LEONE'S PRESIDENT AND ECOWAS CHAIRMAN, DR. JULIUS MAADA BIO, GRACES INAUGURATION OF NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 8 December 2025 - His Excellency Dr. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and current Chairman of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), honoured the inauguration ceremony of His Excellency Alassane Ouattara with his distinguished presence. Commenting on the inauguration following his arrival in Abidjan on the 7 December 2025, President Bio stated on Facebook "ECOWAS remains steadfastly committed to strengthening democratic governance across West Africa."

His attendance at the swearing-in of President Ouattara, re-elected during the 25 October 2025 presidential vote, underscores the solidarity of Sierra Leone and ECOWAS with Côte d'Ivoire as it begins a new chapter under renewed leadership. As Chairman of ECOWAS, President Bio's presence also reaffirmed his commitment to regional cooperation, democratic consolidation, and the strengthening of bilateral relations across West Africa. The visit reflected the collective leadership role President Bio continues to play in promoting peace, economic integration, and good governance within the sub region.



SIERRA LEONE'S PRESIDENT JULIUS MAADA BIO PRESIDES OVER SIERRA LEONE–EU POLITICAL DIALOGUE, REAFFIRMS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP



State House, Freetown, Tuesday, 16 December 2025- His Excellency President Dr. Julius Maada Bio presided over the Sierra Leone–European Union (EU) Political Dialogue, reaffirming the importance of the longstanding partnership between Sierra Leone and the European Union. The annual political dialogue brought together six European Union Ambassadors accredited to Sierra Leone, alongside senior EU officials and diplomats, to review shared priorities and strengthen bilateral cooperation. President Bio described the partnership between Sierra Leone and the European Union as strategically significant, particularly in the face of evolving global and regional challenges.

European Union Deputy Secretary-General for External Action, Mr. Olof Skoog, expressed appreciation for the constructive engagement during the dialogue and reaffirmed the EU's continued support to Sierra Leone.



PRESIDENT JULIUS MAADA BIO LAUNCHES BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS CAMPAIGN 2025 - 2027 IN SIERRA LEONE

Bintumani Conference Center, Freetown, Friday 12 December 2025 - His Excellency Dr. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, has officially launched, in Sierra Leone, the 2025–2027 Campaign of the Organization of African First Ladies For Development (OAFLAD) titled “Building Resilience for Women and Girls in the Face of Climate Change and Conflict” at the Freetown International Conference Centre, Bintumani. The event brought together First Ladies from across Africa, development partners, senior government officials, traditional leaders, and members of the diplomatic community for what is recognized as one of the continent’s most significant initiatives centred on women’s resilience.

The launch coincided with the seventh anniversary of the “Hands Off Our Girls” Campaign, the flagship initiative of Sierra Leone’s First Lady, Her Excellency Fatima Maada Bio, who also serves as President of OAFLAD.

SIERRA LEONE'S PRESIDENT JULIUS MAADA BIO COMMISSIONS 1,017 SOLDIERS AND OFFICER CADETS, DECLARES END TO MILITARY INTERVENTION IN POLITICS

Armed Forces Training Centre, Benguema Barracks, Waterloo.
Thursday, 11 December 2025 - His Excellency President Dr. Julius Maada Bio has formally commissioned 1,017 newly trained soldiers and officer cadets into the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF), marking what he described as a defining moment for the nation and declaring that the era of military involvement in national politics "is over."

The graduating cohort comprised 89 officer cadets and 949 enlisted soldiers, including 212 female recruits and 15 female officer cadets. The trainees underwent nine months of intensive preparation at the Armed Forces Training Centre and the Peace Mission Training Centre.





SIERRA LEONE'S PRESIDENT JULIUS MAADA BIO COMMISSIONS TAF SALONE MICRO CITY, REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

TAF Salone Micro City, John Obey, Western Area Rural District, Friday, 19 December 2025 – His Excellency President Dr. Julius Maada Bio commissioned the TAF Salone Micro City, Sierra Leone's first modern, smart, and green city, reaffirming his government's unwavering commitment to strengthening public-private partnerships as a catalyst for national development.

The affordable housing apartments form part of the 5,000 housing units TAF Africa Global has committed to delivering in Sierra Leone, aimed at addressing the country's housing deficit while providing quality and dignified living spaces for citizens. When fully completed, the micro city will feature comprehensive amenities, including shops, a market, business centres, a petrol station, a multi-hub transit system, a health centre, a police post, fire services, primary and secondary schools, a mosque, a church, and a cemetery, among others.

Describing the development as more than just a housing project, President Bio stated, "This is not merely a collection of buildings; it is Sierra Leone's first modern, smart, and green city." He disclosed that the first phase comprises 1,100 affordable luxury homes, thoughtfully designed to meet the needs of young professionals, senior citizens, and members of the diaspora seeking to retire or resettle in Sierra Leone.

SIERRA LEONE'S PRESIDENT JULIUS MAADA BIO ANNOUNCES NLE 2.7 MILLION SUBVENTION TO SLAJ, REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC-INTEREST JOURNALISM

State House, Freetown, Sierra Leone, Friday, 5 December, 2025 - His Excellency, President Dr. Julius Maada Bio announced a significant increase in government subvention to the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ), raising the annual allocation to NLe 2.7 million, describing it as a clear demonstration of his administration's commitment to independent journalism and media sustainability. The announcement was made during the seventh Presidential Media Cocktail at State House, attended by media leaders, editors and members of national media associations. The new subvention, he said, reflects deliberate reforms to strengthen media institutions, professional reporting and public-interest journalism. "For SLAJ, Christmas gift always comes early," he said, arguing that the decision answers critics who question the government's contribution to media development.

The President linked media independence to Sierra Leone's growing global profile, referencing the country's presidency of the UN Security Council, his election as Chairman of ECOWAS and the endorsement of the USD 2.2 billion Mission 300 Energy Compact, the largest infrastructure plan in the country's history. He said these achievements demonstrate Sierra Leone's respected voice in global affairs and urged journalists to tell the country's story "with pride and accuracy."





SIERRA LEONE'S PRESIDENT JULIUS MAADA BIO OFFICIALLY OPENS SALONE CIVIC FESTIVAL 2025, DECLARES JANUARY 18 AS NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE DAY

Miatta Civic Centre, Freetown, Thursday, 11 December 2025 - His Excellency Dr. Julius Maada Bio officially opened the Salone Civic Festival 2025 and formally declared January 18 as National Remembrance Day to honour victims, promote reconciliation, and strengthen peace, fulfilling a key recommendation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). January 18, 2002, marked the official end of Sierra Leone's civil war, which began in 1991.

He announced that the day will now be dedicated to civic education, community service, peacebuilding activities, and remembrance of victims and survivors. The Ministry of Information and Civic Education (MICE), the National Council for Civic Education and Democracy (NaCCED), and the Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion (ICPNC) were tasked to lead the annual commemoration.



SIERRA LEONE'S PRESIDENT JULIUS MAADA BIO OPENS BO FESTIVAL, PRAISES ORGANISERS FOR PROMOTING PEACE AND UNITY

Bo Mini Stadium, Southern Region, Tuesday, 23 December 2025 – His Excellency President Dr. Julius Maada Bio officially opened the Bo District Festival, commending the organisers and people of Bo District for using culture and celebration to promote peace, unity, and national cohesion. The festival featured cultural performances, traditional dances, music, gymnastics, and a durbar of Paramount Chiefs, alongside exhibitions of Sierra Leonean cuisine and local artistry.

Declaring the festival open, President Bio described the event as a celebration of Sierra Leone's identity and cultural heritage. He praised Paramount Chiefs for preserving tradition and commended the inclusion of sports and youth activities. "As leaders, we are always pleased when there is peace, because peace and unity allow everyone to prosper," the President stated.

NIGERIAN-AMERICAN SINGER DAVIDO PAYS COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENT JULIUS MAADA BIO, PRAISES SIERRA LEONE'S HOSPITALITY

State House, Freetown, Monday, 22 December 2025 - Renowned Nigerian-American singer, songwriter, and record producer, David Adedeji Adeleke, popularly known as Davido, paid a courtesy call on His Excellency President Dr. Julius Maada Bio at State House in Freetown, ahead of his highly anticipated performance at Sugar Land Beach.

Welcoming Davido and his team on behalf of the Government and people of Sierra Leone, President Julius Maada Bio stated that the artiste is no stranger to the country, noting that many Sierra Leoneans are eagerly anticipating his live performance. The President thanked the organisers for staging what he described as a fitting end-of-year musical celebration for citizens, marking the close of 2025.

Expressing his appreciation to President Bio, Davido thanked the President for the warm reception accorded him. He stated that since his arrival in Sierra Leone, his experience has been exceptional, particularly commending the hospitality and security arrangements. Describing Sierra Leone as his second home, the singer assured of his continued visits to the country, including future performances after the completion of the National Stadium.



SIERRA LEONE'S PRESIDENT BIO ATTENDS CHRISTMAS DAY MASS IN BONTHE, REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO ISLAND DEVELOPMENT

Bonthe Island, Thursday, 25 December 2025 – His Excellency President Dr. Julius Maada Bio joined clergy, parishioners, traditional leaders, and residents of Bonthe for the December 25 Mass, a tradition he has consistently maintained during the Christmas break. Church authorities warmly welcomed the President and expressed appreciation for his continued fellowship with the Bonthe Catholic community, describing his presence as a powerful symbol of faith, humility, and national unity. Special tribute was also paid to Her Excellency the First Lady, Madam Fatima Maada Bio, for her support towards the renovation of the parish house, an over 100-year-old structure that has now been transformed into a modern facility.

Following the Christmas Mass, the Mayor of Bonthe, His Worship Mohamed Robinson, invited President Bio to commission a major street renamed Julius Maada Bio Road, formerly known as Heddle Road. The Mayor explained that the decision to rename the street was taken by the Bonthe City Council and community stakeholders in recognition of the President's development interventions and enduring support to the island.



SIERRA LEONE'S PRESIDENT BIO URGES PEACE AND RELIGIOUS HARMONY AT SUB-REGIONAL MANO RIVER BASIN MUSLIM CONFERENCE

Kpandebu Dama Town, Kenema District, Tuesday, 30 December 2025 - His Excellency President Dr. Julius Maada Bio, accompanied by First Lady Dr. Fatima Maada Bio, attended a sub-regional Muslim prayer conference organised by the Sierra Leone chapter of the Kormende Progressive Union, where he strongly condemned all forms of religious violence and hate speech. The conference, which rotates among the four Mano River Basin countries, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, and Côte d'Ivoire, brought together Islamic scholars, clerics, and delegates to offer prayers of thanksgiving to Allah for peace, life, and unity. Prayers were also offered for the leadership and people of the four countries, as well as for continued stability in the sub-region.

In his goodwill message, President Bio thanked delegates from Liberia, Guinea, and Côte d'Ivoire for honouring the invitation, describing the gathering as a meaningful and fitting way to end the year in prayer and gratitude. He noted that the conference demonstrated how religion can unite people across borders in a world increasingly marked by division. "This is not just a religious gathering, it is a gathering dedicated to Allah," the President said, noting that people from across the Mano River Basin had come together to thank God for His mercies throughout 2025.



SIERRA LEONE'S PRESIDENT BIO REASSURES SIERRA LEONEANS OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY, NATIONAL UNITY, AND RENEWED HOPE IN CHRISTMAS DAY ADDRESS



State House, Freetown, Thursday, December 25, 2025 - President Dr Julius Maada Bio described Christmas as a season of reflection, gratitude, forgiveness, and renewed care for one another, noting that 2025 was a challenging year that required patience and collective sacrifice. He acknowledged that difficult policy decisions were taken to safeguard long-term stability, even when they caused short-term hardship for households and businesses.

The President noted clear signs of economic improvement, including declining prices of essential commodities,

reduced and stable fuel prices, a stabilised exchange rate, and inflation falling to single digits, the lowest level in nearly two decades. He attributed these gains to careful economic management, increased local food production, and disciplined use of public resources.

Reaffirming his Government's commitment to Human Capital Development, President Bio stressed that food security remains a top national priority, highlighting the Feed Salone initiative as a key driver of improved rice self-sufficiency and enhanced support for farmers across the country.

SIERRA LEONE'S PRESIDENT JULIUS MAADA BIO REAFFIRMS CONFIDENCE IN SLPP NATIONAL CHAIRMAN BATILO SONGA, CALLS FOR UNITY, DISCIPLINE AND SHARED PURPOSE

Freetown International Conference Centre, Freetown, Sierra Leone, 17 December 2025 - His Excellency, President Dr Julius Maada Bio reaffirmed his full confidence in the newly elected National Chairman of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP), Sir Jimmy Batilo Songa, calling on party members to rally behind him in the interest of unity, discipline and effective party organisation. The President made these remarks while delivering the keynote address at the Inauguration and Fundraising Dinner of the new SLPP National Executive Council, held on Wednesday, 17 December 2025, at the Freetown International Conference Centre. *

In a strong show of support for the new party leadership, the President described Chairman Batilo Songa as a tested and disciplined leader whose loyalty and commitment to the SLPP are beyond question. He urged members to work with and through the Chairman, stressing that a firm and respected party leadership is essential for cohesion and electoral success. "When the Chairman stands firm, the Party stands firm," President Bio said, adding that unity within the party enables him, as Leader and President, to focus fully on the responsibilities of governing the nation.



PHOTO GALLERY



President Bio and First Lady Fatima Bio
celebrate Annual Canoe race
winners in Bonthe



Annual Canoe race in Bonthe
Kicks off with President
Bio in attendance



Hedde Road in Bonthe renamed
Julius Maada Bio Road in honour
of President Bio



President Bio greets Muslim
leaders at Kpandebou Regional
Prayer Meeting



President Bio inspects Guard
of Honour at Bo Civic Festival



President Bio arrives in
Abuja for 68th Ordinary
session of ECOWAS

KEY QUOTATIONS

STATE HOUSE MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS UNIT
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CHRISTMAS DAY NATIONAL BROADCAST MESSAGE BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. JULIUS MAADA BIO PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

“Conditions are beginning to ease. The prices of rice and other essential goods are coming down, the exchange rate is stable, petrol prices have reduced and remain steady, and inflation has fallen to single digits, the lowest level in nearly 20 years.”

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH, 2025

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE CHAIRMAN OF THE AUTHORITY OF ECOWAS HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

STATE HOUSE MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS UNIT
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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 IN-AUGURATION DINNER OF THE NEW SLPP NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. THEME OF THE NIGHT: "THE SLPP: PREPARING FOR THE SIERRA LEONE WE ARE BECOMING."

“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 Sierra Leone People's Party is beyond question.”

H.E Julius Maada Bio
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Chairman of ECOWAS Authority

WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2025
AT THE FREETOWN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE
FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE

STATE HOUSE MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS UNIT
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

“We stand on the shoulders of brave men and women who paid the ultimate price. Their courage guides us, their sacrifice strengthens us, and their legacy lives in every uniform we wear.”

H.E Julius Maada Bio
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Chairman of ECOWAS Authority
11TH DECEMBER, 2025.

STATE HOUSE MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS UNIT
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CHRISTMAS DAY NATIONAL BROADCAST MESSAGE BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. JULIUS MAADA BIO PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

“I know that many families faced real pressure this year. The cost of living weighed heavily on households. Parents worried about putting food on the table and meeting school needs, while traders and farmers faced uncertainty. I hear these concerns, and I take them seriously.”

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH, 2025

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE CHAIRMAN OF THE AUTHORITY OF ECOWAS HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

STATE HOUSE MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS UNIT
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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 IN-AUGURATION DINNER OF THE NEW SLPP NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. THEME OF THE NIGHT: "THE SLPP: PREPARING FOR THE SIERRA LEONE WE ARE BECOMING."

“There is only one SLPP agenda. As Leader, I provide political direction. The Chairman manages the affairs of the Party. When that order is respected, the Party is steady and when the Party is steady, it is unstoppable.”

H.E Julius Maada Bio
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Leader of Sierra Leone People's Party

WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2025
AT THE FREETOWN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE
FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE

STATE HOUSE MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS UNIT
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

“You stand today as guardians of peace, defenders of democracy, champions of unity, and custodians of the Green, White, and Blue. Serve with honour. Lead with integrity.”

H.E Julius Maada Bio
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Chairman of ECOWAS Authority
11TH DECEMBER, 2025.