



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

DELIVERED BY

HIS EXCELLENCY

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*President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Commander-in-Chief of the
Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces*

On the Occasion of the State Opening of the

**Fourth Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Second
Republic of Sierra Leone**

In the Chamber of Parliament Building

Tower Hill, Freetown

On

Friday, 7th August 2026

At

10:00 a.m.

HONOURABLE VICE PRESIDENT,
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT,
THE HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE,
MADAM FIRST LADY,
FORMER HONOURABLE VICE PRESIDENTS,
FORMER RIGHT HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT,
FORMER HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF THE ECOWAS PARLIAMENT,
MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY,
MINISTERS OF GOVERNMENT,
HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT,
OUR REVERED TRADITIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS,
OUR RELIGIOUS LEADERS,
THE MAYOR OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF FREETOWN,
MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR CORPS,
MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICES,
CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS,
MEMBERS OF THE FOURTH ESTATE,
DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
FELLOW SIERRA LEONEANS,

I. INTRODUCTION

1. With gratitude for the journey we have made together, and with a sober sense of the work still before us, I come once again in this **Honourable House to open the Fourth Session of the Sixth Parliament of the Second Republic.**
2. I do so with humility and a clear sense of constitutional duty, conscious that our authority is entrusted by the people and must be honoured through service. Across Sierra Leone, our people begin each day with hope, but also with questions that cannot wait.
3. A **mother** considers how far her earnings will stretch. A **farmer** thinks about the harvest and the road to market. A **young graduate** searches for the dignity of meaningful work. A **patient** waits for care. A **citizen** enters a public office expecting to be treated fairly and without needless delay.
4. This **State Opening** is a moment of national accountability: a time to examine progress honestly, face unfinished work and renew our responsibility to the people.
5. Economic figures and public policies enter the life of every family. Their meaning is felt in food prices, reliable electricity and water, the quality of schools and clinics, the condition of roads and the dignity with which the State treats its citizens.

6. **Public office is a sacred trust.** Our authority belongs ultimately to the people. Our decisions must answer their needs; **our institutions uphold their rights; and every policy, resource and reform must be measured by whether it improves their lives.**
7. As we begin the work of this Session, we pause to remember with gratitude those who served our nation and whose absence is felt in this House and across the country.
8. We remember the late **Honourable Ernest Dura Koroma**, who represented Tonko Limba Chiefdom, **Kambia District**. We remember the late **Honourable Musa Peter Moigua** and the late **Honourable Mariama Ella Goba**, who represented **Kenema District**. We honour the late **Honourable Finda Lucinda Kellie**, Member of Parliament for **Kono District**.
9. I pay special tribute to the late **Honourable Alhaji Minkailu Mansaray**, former Member of Parliament, Minister of Government and National Chairman of the main opposition All People's Congress, who passed away in June. His decades of service showed that political differences need never erase our common duty to Sierra Leone.
10. May their lives deepen our sense of responsibility and inspire us to serve with integrity.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

11. Their service brings us back to the trust this House carries.
12. In this Chamber, the people's representatives make laws, hold Government to account and debate the direction of the Republic. Each seat carries the hopes, frustrations and expectations of Sierra Leoneans.
13. A strong democracy needs an effective Government and a responsible opposition. The governing party has a duty to lead and remain accountable. The opposition represents millions of Sierra Leoneans and must scrutinise Government, present alternatives and participate fully in the work of Parliament.
14. In that spirit, I welcome back the **Honourable Members** of the main opposition **All People's Congress**. Your presence ensures that the voices of your constituents are heard in the work of this House.
15. Sierra Leoneans do not expect agreement on every issue. They expect us to disagree responsibly, work together where we can, and place the country above party.
16. As we say in Krio, **Wan han no de tai bɔndul: one hand cannot tie a bundle.** National renewal requires Parliament, the Judiciary and the Executive; Government and Opposition; institutions and citizens. Each must carry their responsibility faithfully.
17. I commend this Parliament's contribution through legislation, representation and oversight, and thank every **Honourable Member** for your service. The progress we have made is real, but it is not enough.
18. This **Fourth Session** begins in our **Year of Action and Accelerated Delivery**.

19. Every Ministry, Department and Agency must turn plans into completed work and demonstrate measurable progress against clear national priorities.
20. Let us approach it with urgency and discipline, guided by the national motto that gives our Republic its moral direction: **Unity, Freedom and Justice**.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

21. A new Parliamentary Session must establish the legislative direction for the year ahead.
22. My Government will bring measures to support growth and local enterprise, improve public-resource management, and strengthen justice and national security.
23. Further measures will protect the environment and modernise the laws on land, extractives industries, social protection and public administration.
24. I urge **Honourable Members** to scrutinise these measures and act with due urgency. A law earns confidence when it answers a real need, can be implemented and improves people's lives.
25. This Address presents an honest account of what we have achieved, what remains unfinished and the commitments by which my Government is prepared to be judged. That account begins with the economic conditions our people face.

II. A NATION MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER: THE ECONOMY

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

26. Wars in Ukraine and the Middle East continue to disrupt global trade and raise the cost of food, fuel, fertiliser and transport. As an importer of many essential goods, Sierra Leone feels these pressures quickly.
27. Our responsibility is both to cushion our people from immediate shocks and build an economy that is less vulnerable to them. We have stabilised key economic indicators, strengthened domestic revenue and improved conditions for investment and growth.
28. **Real GDP** grew by **4.6 per cent** in 2024 and **4.8 per cent** in 2025. Inflation declined to **9.4 per cent** in April 2025 and **4.4 per cent** by December — its lowest level in nearly two decades. However, rising global oil prices pushed inflation to **10.8 per cent** in April 2026, prompting temporary fuel support and continued electricity-tariff subsidies.
29. The exchange rate depreciated by less than **1 per cent** in 2025. **Treasury bill** rates fell from **41.2 per cent** in April to **17 per cent** in May, while private-sector bank lending increased by **50 per cent**, creating greater room for businesses to invest, expand and employ.
30. The **trade deficit** narrowed from **USD 1.60 billion** in 2024 to **USD 1.07 billion** in 2025, easing pressure on foreign exchange. **Domestic revenue** increased from **NLe 14.6 billion** to **NLe 18 billion**, providing additional resources for national priorities.

31. At the same time, the overall fiscal deficit declined from **5.4 to 4.4 per cent of GDP**. The primary balance improved from a deficit of **2.6 per cent** to a surplus of **1.3 per cent**, while public debt fell from **50.8 to 49.3 per cent of GDP**.
32. Our programme under the **IMF Extended Credit Facility** remains on track. Reviews completed in December 2025 and June 2026 released approximately **USD 79.8 million** and **USD 31.7 million**, respectively. A further **USD 211.45 million** was approved under the **Resilience and Sustainability Facility** to strengthen our capacity to withstand climate shocks.
33. These reviews recognise the progress we have made, while underscoring the need for continued fiscal discipline, stronger reserves and prudent debt management.
34. In 2025, **twelve new agreements with Development Partners**, valued at **USD 374.9 million**, came into effect. Disbursements to ongoing projects reached **USD 254.4 million**, comprising **USD 191.2 million** in grants and **USD 63.2 million** in loans. These resources are supporting roads, energy, water, food systems, technology and healthcare.
35. I thank the **World Bank, African Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, OPEC Fund, European Union, BADEA** and all our development partners for their continued cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

36. A partnership earns its meaning when an agreement becomes a passable road, safe water, a productive farm, a stronger clinic or a job for a Sierra Leonean.
37. **Our economic indicators show encouraging progress**, but figures alone do not put food on the table. Recovery becomes real only when families can better afford food, transport and electricity; when businesses grow and create jobs; and when public services improve.
38. I understand how urgently our people want to feel that change. Our task now is to translate economic stability into tangible improvements in their daily lives.

III. TRADE, INDUSTRY AND PRIVATE-SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

39. My Government is simplifying business processes, expanding access to finance and reducing the cost of doing business, with particular support for small businesses, women-owned enterprises and companies that create jobs for young people.
40. Sierra Leone must retain more value from its resources through local manufacturing and processing, creating jobs, developing skills and expanding access to regional and continental markets under **ECOWAS** and the **African Continental Free Trade Area**.
41. A more productive economy is our strongest defence against external shocks and the central purpose of **the Big Five Game Changers**.

THE BIG FIVE GAME CHANGERS: TRANSFORMING LIVES, COMMUNITIES AND OUR NATION

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

42. The **Big Five Game Changers** translate our **Medium-Term National Development Plan 2024–2030** into tangible improvements in people's lives.
43. They are mutually reinforcing: agriculture requires roads, energy, technology and skills; growth depends on a healthy, educated population; and effective delivery requires capable institutions.
44. In this **Year of Action and Accelerated Delivery**, our success will be measured by visible progress, closed gaps and completed projects.
45. I will report on the progress made, remaining gaps and the work ahead.

IV. GAME CHANGER ONE: FEED SALONE — PUTTING FOOD ON THE TABLE AND MONEY IN CITIZENS' POCKETS

A. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

46. I begin with our flagship **Feed Salone Programme** because food security affects every household and underpins economic stability.
47. Agriculture is also a major opportunity for jobs, investment and rural transformation.
48. In 2025, rice production reached **1,441,015 metric tonnes**, representing an increase of **4.2 per cent** over the previous year. Cultivated land expanded to **661,016 hectares** and average yields rose to **2.37 metric tonnes per hectare**, producing more rice from our fields.
49. Rice self-sufficiency rose from **68 per cent in 2023** to **73 per cent in 2025**. The rice import bill fell from **USD 177 million in 2022** to **USD 159 million**, saving more than **USD 18 million** in foreign exchange and easing pressure on our reserves.
50. For 2026, we are supporting **21,810 hectares of priority crops**.
51. The **Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute** released **18 improved varieties of rice, cassava and maize**, while local seed enterprises supplied all the rice seeds required for three consecutive years. Better seed raises productivity and reduces imports.
52. **Cocoa, cashew and coffee exports generated USD 107.8 million** last year, bringing foreign exchange and income to farming communities.
53. A **35 per cent duty on imported eggs** encouraged three leading farms to build a combined stock of **45,000 birds**, expanding local supply, investment and jobs.

54. At a large-scale agricultural onion farm and processing facility in Lungi, onion cultivation has expanded from **70 to 170 hectares**. More than **500 women** have gained employment, while the price of onions has fallen from **NLe 50 to NLe 34**.
55. **This is the result we seek: increased local production, lower food prices and more income for families.**
56. We have mobilised more than **USD 45 million for agribusiness growth and commercialisation**: **USD 10 million** in agricultural credit; **USD 5.8 million** in the **World Bank's Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP)** matching grants for **62 agribusiness SMEs, 42 per cent** women-owned; a **€10 million European Investment Bank** facility for SMEs; and a **€7 million UNCDF** blended-finance facility for agribusinesses led by women and young people.
57. The **USD 105 million Livestock and Livelihood Development Project**, jointly funded by **IFAD, the Islamic Development Bank, the OPEC Fund and Heifer International**, will reach **more than 62,000 households in eleven districts**.
58. It will distribute **70,525 animals**, deploy **196 animal health workers** and establish **six veterinary clinics**. Livestock provides rural families with food, income and resilience.
59. More than **1,200 farmers** are enrolled in Sierra Leone's first **Weather-Index Crop Insurance Scheme**, protecting them from climate shocks and production losses.
60. Local rice now supplies **40 per cent** of the School Feeding Programme, up from **10 per cent in 2024**, giving farmers a reliable market and feeding **270,000 schoolchildren daily**.
61. **Household food security is improving**. The **World Food Programme** reports severe food insecurity falling from **28 per cent of households in 2023 to 13 per cent in 2025**.
62. **Four agricultural bridges** have been commissioned in Bonthe, Kenema, Kailahun and Karene, while work continues on the **5,000-hectare Tormabum–Gbondapi irrigation system**. These investments help produce, reach markets and make farming less dependent on the rains.
63. A **USD 40 million World Bank IDA Project on Sustainable Agriculture Value-chain Intensification for Growth**, known as **SAVIG**, will enhance productivity, value addition, market access and private investment across the rice, maize, onion and cocoa value chains.
64. Other pipeline projects worth **USD 320 million** will support cassava industrialisation; establish a **Special Agro-Processing Zone** in Kambia and Port Loko; build the **65-kilometre Bendu Chaa–Bauya road**; and implement an **EU Oil Palm Project** in Pujehun. Together, they will link farms more closely to processing, transport and markets.
65. Next year, to consolidate the progress we have made towards food self-sufficiency, we will expand irrigation, mechanisation, processing capacity and rural connectivity.
66. Feed Salone will be judged by what farmers earn, what families pay for food and Sierra Leone's ability to feed itself.

B. FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

- 67.** Food security extends from our farms to our rivers and territorial waters. Fish is the main animal protein for many Sierra Leoneans and supports livelihoods across the value chain.
- 68.** Sector revenue rose from **NLe 150.4 million in 2024** to **NLe 163 million in 2025**, increasing public returns from a resource sustaining many coastal families.
- 69.** Our ten-year **Feed Salone Strategy for the Fisheries and Marine Resources** will strengthen sustainable production, regulation, local processing and action against illegal fishing, helping fishers earn more while preserving stocks.
- 70.** An **Export Certification Portal** will help Sierra Leonean producers meet international standards and enter new markets.
- 71.** The **USD 55 million Fish Harbour at Black Johnson**, currently under construction, will provide a harbour, market, cold storage, processing and vessel maintenance, reducing spoilage and retaining value locally.
- 72.** We will expand aquaculture and support women in processing and marketing.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

- 73.** **Feed Salone** is already visible in our schools, where locally produced rice feeds Sierra Leonean children while providing farmers with a reliable market.
- 74.** This connection between food security, education and national development leads to our **second Game Changer: Human Capital Development**.

V. GAME CHANGER TWO: HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT — INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE

A. BASIC AND SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

- 75.** **Sierra Leone's greatest asset is its people.** Our future rests on their education, health and skills.
- 76.** The **USD 15.3 million Salone Pikin 4 Play en Lan initiative** gives more than **29,000 children** play-based learning in **87 community centres**, strengthening their start close to home.
- 77.** We identified **108,144 out-of-school children** and developed an **Accelerated Learning Curriculum**, with trained educators and targeted support for remote and vulnerable learners.
- 78.** School feeding now reaches **1,016,191 pupils in 4,034 schools across all 15 districts**, improving attendance, supporting families and creating a market for farmers.

79. We trained more than **26,000 primary teachers, 5,400 early-childhood teachers and supervisors**, and appointed **300 quality-assurance officers**.
80. We registered **90,000 educators**, added **1,419 trained teachers** to the payroll and deployed **1,000 pre-primary and nursery educators**, placing more trained adults in early classrooms.
81. Household income should not determine whether a child can sit a national examination. In 2025, **128,566 of 164,598 pupils** passed the **National Primary School Examination (NPSE)**, while **114,709 of 122,037** passed the **Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE)**. The Government committed **NLe 112,056,756** toward **West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE)** fees for **179,006 candidates**.
82. Examination malpractice involving public officials, principals, teachers and parents is deeply troubling and must stop. It betrays our children, **Free Quality School Education** and the integrity of our future workforce.
83. Children must work hard and earn results honourably. Any public official, principal, teacher, parent, or pupil who enables malpractice must face the law.
84. Every child, regardless of location, gender, disability or circumstance, must be able to learn and fulfil their potential.

B. TECHNICAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

85. Technical and higher education must equip graduates with the knowledge and practical skills our economy needs.
86. We are investing in infrastructure, faculty development, digital learning, governance and quality assurance so institutions teach better and qualifications retain value.
87. Two laws, the **National Council for Technical and Vocational Education (NCTVE) Act 2025** and the **Tertiary Education Commission Act 2025**, modernised regulation. Cabinet approved a **Technical and Higher Education Fund** for access, infrastructure and academic development, strengthening quality and long-term financing.
88. We revived the **National Science, Technology and Innovation Council**, began a **National Research and Innovation Policy** and **awarded five grants** for high-quality, locally relevant research.
89. **The Fourah Bay College University Innovation Pod** helps young innovators turn ideas into products and businesses.
90. Technical and vocational education remains central to tackling youth unemployment. The **WokDonCam Project, BEAR III Programme, Recognition of Prior Learning Programme and Excellence Skills Academy** link training to apprenticeships and work.

91. At the Academy, **26 of 41 trainees** found employment with **China Railway Seventh Group Co. Ltd. (CRSG)**.
92. To enable employers to recognise practical skills gained through different routes, Sierra Leone established the **Commonwealth's first National Micro-Credential Framework for technical and vocational education**.
93. Partnerships with **Scholarly Path, Orange Sierra Leone and international universities** are expanding scholarships, admissions, research and lecturer development.
94. As **Fourah Bay College approaches its bicentenary in 2027**, we will honour its two centuries of service by renewing the institution and our wider higher education system for future generations.

C. HEALTHCARE: BUILDING A RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE SYSTEM

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

95. Education expands opportunity. Health determines whether our people can live long enough — and well enough — to realise it.
96. Maternal mortality fell from **1,200 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2013 to 354 in 2023**: a **70 per cent** reduction over the decade and **51 per cent** during my presidency. Behind that decline are mothers alive to raise their children.
97. **Under-five mortality** fell from **105 to 91 deaths per 1,000 live births**, and neonatal mortality from **31 to 29**. More children now survive their earliest years.
98. To sustain this progress, we launched the **300 Days of Activism for Triple Zeros** in March 2026.
99. Skilled birth attendance and institutional deliveries now exceed **95 per cent**, while **PresTrack** has reached **200 additional health facilities** to strengthen pregnancy monitoring and emergency referrals.
100. Childhood immunisation has surpassed the national target of **90 per cent**, with more than **1.76 million children vaccinated against measles, rubella and polio**. **HPV vaccination** among **girls aged 11 to 18**, including those out of school, has reached **99 per cent**.
101. The **Paul E. Farmer Maternal Centre of Excellence** in Kono has expanded from **48 to 100 beds**, with **three operating theatres** and the country's first rural **Neonatal Intensive Care Unit**. It has already provided specialised care to more than **2,800 women**.
102. We commissioned **Sierra Leone's first dedicated Burns Unit at Connaught Hospital** and installed the **country's first CT scanners at Connaught and Kenema Regional Hospitals**.
103. Hospitals at Lumley, Macauley Street and Moyamba were rehabilitated, and **15 dialysis machines** are being deployed for life-sustaining kidney treatment.

- 104. We expanded the **National Health Insurance Programme**, strengthened the healthcare workforce and upgraded diagnostic and emergency care in regional and district hospitals.
- 105. The **Essential Medicines Supply Programme** improved access to critical medicines in public health facilities.
- 106. To protect medicine quality and reduce scarcity, we secured **USD 10.35 million through the MoH/SRHR Project, the Global Fund and World Vision** to construct a national pharmaceutical-grade warehouse.
- 107. Digital health systems now improve patient management, data collection and service delivery.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

- 108. A resilient health system also requires safe water and adequate sanitation.

D. WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

- 109. Our **National WASH Compact** strengthens water security, sanitation, hygiene and financing, moving from scattered projects to reliable services.
- 110. A **USD 40 million World Bank grant** for the **Sierra Leone Water Security and WASH Access Project** will strengthen sector institutions, expand water and sanitation services and build climate resilience.
- 111. The **Sierra Leone Electricity, Water and Sanitation Regulatory Commission Act, 2025** modernised regulation, private participation, tariff harmonisation and environmental enforcement.
- 112. We operationalised **19 regulatory instruments, including Electricity and Water Codes, tariff rules, licensing procedures and consumer protection guidelines**, giving providers clear duties and citizens stronger protection.
- 113. For households, this framework should mean safer water, clearer bills and a regulator that can answer complaints.
- 114. **Community-Led Total Sanitation has made 26 chiefdoms free from open defecation.** With partners, we are expanding water supply, sanitation, handwashing and disease prevention.
- 115. Our priority is reliable, sustainable water. Citizens must know which communities will be reached, when work will finish and how services will be maintained.

E. GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

- 116. Human Capital Development** requires the protection of every child and the full empowerment of women.
- 117.** Following nationwide consultations, we completed the **Strategic Implementation Plan for the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act**.
- 118.** In this **Year of Action and Accelerated Delivery**, its rights and protections must produce measurable results.
- 119.** We will expand women's access to finance, skills and enterprise; strengthen their participation in public institutions and decision-making; and intensify efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.
- 120.** For our children, we will strengthen school feeding, nutrition, birth registration and the enforcement of their rights. We will keep girls in school, confront child marriage and ensure that every child grows in safety, dignity and opportunity.
- 121.** When women are safe, educated and empowered, children are better protected, families are stronger and our nation advances.

F. SOCIAL WELFARE AND PROTECTION

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

- 122.** Economic reform must protect those least able to withstand hardship.
- 123.** Cash transfers through the **National Commission for Social Action** have reached **394,224 people** in extremely poor households; **90 per cent are women** and **12 per cent are persons with disabilities**.
- 124.** We provided **NLe 439.32 million** to support **105,000 elderly and extremely poor households**. Cash transfers help families buy food, cover health costs, and keep children in school.
- 125.** The **Islamic Microfinance Scheme** supported **1,240 people** in Kenema District, **70 per cent** of them women, with trade goods and agricultural equipment.
- 126.** We will expand livelihoods, disability services and care for older persons while making buildings, information and services accessible.

G. SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

127. Sport promotes health, discipline, and national pride. For a young person, it can lead to a scholarship, livelihood or the honour of representing Sierra Leone.
128. We will strengthen school and community sports, improve facilities and governance, attract private investment and support athletes representing Sierra Leone.
129. Ultimately, our investments in education, health and talent must create pathways to employment, enterprise and purposeful participation in national development.
130. This leads to our **third Game Changer: Youth Employment.**

VI. GAME CHANGER THREE: YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP — UNLOCKING THE TALENTS OF OUR YOUTH

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

131. Three years ago, we set a **target of 500,000 new jobs over five years through the Youth Employment Scheme.**
132. Young Sierra Leoneans have since gained work experience in agriculture, construction, public works, community development, the environment, and digital services.
133. This commitment must be transparent. I have directed publication of the verified cumulative employment figure, what counts, the sectors involved and the duration of the jobs.
134. Training, mentorship, grants and finance are helping young people build businesses. The **Productive Social Safety Nets and Youth Employment Project** supports **8,000 youth-led enterprises**, creating incomes and work.
135. We will align skills with the economy through technical and vocational training, digital skills, apprenticeships and employer partnerships.
136. Government, business, finance and civil society must create pathways to decent work and enterprise.
137. As employment expands, we must also protect the rights, safety and dignity of the workers whose labour sustains our economy.
138. We will strengthen labour inspections, workplace safety, social security compliance, and the peaceful resolution of industrial disputes.
139. Working with employers and trade unions, we will promote fair employment, improve productivity and ensure that economic growth benefits workers as well as businesses.

140. However, skills and enterprise can flourish only when people have reliable electricity, access to markets and connections to the wider economy.
141. This brings me to our **fourth Game Changer: Technology and Infrastructure**.

VII. GAME CHANGER FOUR: TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT — CONNECTING OUR PEOPLE TO OPPORTUNITY

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

142. **Infrastructure shapes daily life.** Roads connect farmers to markets, electricity keeps businesses and hospitals operating after dark, and affordable internet opens access to knowledge, services and opportunity.
143. We secured **USD 15 million from the World Bank** for a second submarine fibre-optic cable, reducing dependence on one international connection and expected to attract **USD 25 million** in private investment.
144. Greater resilience means fewer disruptions. Mobile subscriptions rose **by 89 per cent, network redundancy by 60 per cent, and wholesale bandwidth costs fell by 70 per cent**, creating conditions for wider, more reliable and affordable service.
145. We relaunched **Sierratel through a Mobile Virtual Network Operator partnership**, retaining public ownership while adding private expertise.
146. **The National Communications Authority Headquarters Building and National Data Centre** will strengthen regulation, data security and digital services.
147. Passport applications, work permits and residence permits can now be processed online, while **the National Instant Payment Switch** enables real-time digital payments.
148. Following our **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Readiness Assessment**, we are developing **Sierra Leone's first National Artificial Intelligence Strategy** to advance responsible innovation in education, healthcare, agriculture, government, and business.
149. Sierra Leone hosted the **20th ECOWAS Ministerial Meeting on Telecommunications and Digitalisation**, which adopted the **Regional Data Embassy Framework**, and the **2026 West Africa Internet Governance Forum**.
150. We will continue to invest in connectivity, cybersecurity, data protection, digital skills, and innovation so that technology creates jobs, improves services, and extends opportunity.

A. ENERGY: POWERING PROSPERITY AND NATIONAL RESILIENCE

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

151. Every ambition in our **National Development Plan** depends on reliable and affordable electricity.
152. The **USD 2.2 billion Mission 300 Energy Compact**, endorsed in September 2025 with support from the **World Bank Group** and the **African Development Bank**, is our largest infrastructure development plan.
153. It aims to raise electricity access from **36 per cent in 2024** to nearly **80 per cent by 2030**, and generation from **271 megawatts** to **1.12 gigawatts**, connecting at least **720,000 additional households**.
154. For those families, electricity means light for studying, power for working, and safer care after dark.
155. To meet these targets, we developed the **Just Energy Transition and Green Growth Plan** and sector reforms, including **200 mini-grids** through our **Rural Electrification Drive**.
156. The completed **CLSG Rural Electrification Project** provided **12,000 connections in over 25 communities** and enables imports of **27 megawatts** from Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea.
157. Rehabilitating and expanding the **Bo-Kenema distribution system**, our largest recent energy infrastructure investment, will connect **50,500 households** and modernise networks in our second- and third-largest cities.
158. The **USD 495 million Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact** will further strengthen the national grid through critical infrastructure investments and policy reforms.
159. Through the **World Bank-funded Enhancing Sierra Leone Energy Access Project (ESLEAP)**, implemented by **UNOPS** and the **Ministry of Energy**, more than **10,000 metered connections** have been installed, while solar home systems have reached another **12,000 households**.
160. In 2025, solar power was extended to **203 schools and 199 health facilities**.
161. The **Newton and Lungi solar plants** connected more than 50,000 people, while the **40-megawatt RESPITE Solar Project** represents the largest single addition of renewable energy to the national grid. More than **40 communities in the Western Rural Area** are expected to benefit directly.
162. Through the **European Union's €22 million Salone Off-Grid Renewable Energy Acceleration initiative** and **€2.68 million from Denmark**, we will accelerate private-sector investment in green mini-grids. More than **320 suitable sites** have been identified, with **20 international developers** ready to invest.

163. A **108-megawatt combined-cycle power plant** is under construction and is expected to supply electricity in the first quarter of 2027.
164. We secured a **60 per cent financing commitment from the OPEC Fund** to rehabilitate and expand the **Bumbuna Hydroelectric Project**, doubling its capacity from **50 to 100 megawatts**.
165. For families, electricity means light for children to study; **for hospitals and clinics, safer care; and for businesses, the power to produce, grow and create jobs.**

B. ROADS AND BRIDGES: CONNECTING SIERRA LEONE

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

166. Roads and bridges connect communities to markets, essential services and economic opportunity.
167. Between **2018 and 2026, my Government paved 474.46 kilometres of roads and built or rebuilt 23 bridges.** Another **26** major road projects are underway: **18 Government-funded and 8 development partner-funded.**
168. Pipeline projects include the **105-kilometre Kambia–Tomparie–Kamakwie Road**, supported by **USD 70.1 million in financing from the Islamic Development Bank; the 39-kilometre Buedu–Koindu–Liberia/Guinea Border Road; the 65-kilometre Bauya–Benducha Road; and the 105-kilometre Kenema–Joru Junction and Kenema–Blama–Potoru Road.**
169. These investments must deliver practical results: **lower transport costs, stronger trade, and better access to markets and public services.**

C. PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND ROAD SAFETY

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

170. Safe, affordable transport sustains daily life and the economy. The Lumley terminal, 50 WAKA Fine buses, streetlights and pedestrian bridges at Jui Junction, Shell New Road, Lumley and Wilberforce have made travel safer and more accessible.
171. We will expand urban and inter-city services, add high-capacity buses and improve terminals while keeping fares affordable.
172. Stronger licensing, inspections, traffic signals, lighting, crossings and emergency response will reduce accidents.

D. LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

- 173.** Rapid urban growth is increasing pressure on land, housing, transport, drainage and public services. Secure land rights and well-planned communities are essential.
- 174.** The **Town and Country Planning Act 2025** replaced legislation dating back to 1946, modernising spatial planning, zoning, development control, disaster-risk reduction and the planning authority of local councils.
- 175.** We will modernise land administration, make transactions more transparent, reduce disputes, expand affordable housing and improve informal settlements.
- 176.** Secure title gives families confidence and businesses a basis to invest.

E. MARITIME TRANSPORT, PORTS AND HARBOURS

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

- 177.** As a coastal nation, Sierra Leone must leverage its maritime potential for trade, fisheries, tourism, and regional connectivity.
- 178.** We will modernise ferries, navigational aids, vessel monitoring and ports, making travel safer, cargo faster and coastal communities more accessible.
- 179.** Digital customs, automated cargo tracking, and electronic clearance will reduce delays and trade costs, with support from strategic private-sector investment.
- 180.** We will strengthen the **Ports and Harbours Authority** to improve efficiency, transparency and financial sustainability, while connecting our ports to roads and production centres.
- 181.** Reports linking Sierra Leone to illegal drug trafficking are deeply concerning. Criminal networks will not be allowed to use our territory, waters, airports or ports as transit routes.
- 182.** We will strengthen maritime surveillance, coastal radar, cargo and container screening, intelligence-led risk profiling and financial investigations.
- 183.** We will also deepen coordination among customs, ports, law enforcement and intelligence agencies, and strengthen regional and international cooperation to ensure every credible allegation is independently and thoroughly investigated.
- 184.** We will secure our waters and ports, ensure equal accountability before the law, and protect Sierra Leone's integrity and international reputation.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

- 185.** Infrastructure connects our country; capable institutions turn those connections into reliable public services.
- 186.** This brings me to our **fifth Game Changer: Transforming the Public Service Architecture.**

VIII. GAME CHANGER FIVE: TRANSFORMING THE PUBLIC-SERVICE ARCHITECTURE — BUILDING A GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS FOR OUR PEOPLE

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

- 187.** In this **Year of Action and Accelerated Delivery**, Government must operate at the speed and standard our people deserve.
- 188.** Whether in schools, clinics, district offices or service centres, every citizen should receive efficient, fair and respectful treatment.
- 189.** We are modernising administration, digital services and performance management.
- 190.** Institutions and senior officials will be assessed against national priorities and measurable targets; performance reports will be published, delays explained and failures corrected.

A. DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

- 191.** Digital reform should save time and make services easier to obtain.
- 192.** Digital systems support registration of over **18,000 nurses and midwives**, disease surveillance, energy management, EDSA fault reporting, and new personnel and pension systems for the **Sierra Leone Armed Forces** and the Police. This makes records easier to verify and services faster.
- 193.** We will integrate databases, expand secure online services and extend electronic payments, reducing delays, cash handling and revenue leakage.
- 194.** Cybersecurity, privacy, data protection and skills will remain central.
- 195.** Our objective is public services that are faster, safer, more transparent and easier for every citizen to access.

B. NATIONAL POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

196. As we modernise public services, Government must also have accurate and reliable information about the people and communities it serves.
197. With support from the **United Nations Population Fund** and other Development Partners, the Government has launched the **2026 Population and Housing Census, the Medium-Term National Development Plan Dashboard and the Power of Data Initiative**.
198. The main census, scheduled for **December 2026**, joins the global **2030 Round of Population and Housing Censuses**. It will show where people live and what they need, guiding schools, clinics, water and other services.
199. This national exercise must be credible, inclusive, transparent and professionally conducted.
200. I urge every citizen to participate and all political, traditional, religious and civic leaders and the media to promote public understanding, counter misinformation and safeguard the integrity of the process.
201. Reliable national data will improve planning, fair resource allocation and measurement of development in every community.

C. ANTI-CORRUPTION AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

202. Corruption deprives schools, hospitals, roads and essential services of vital resources. It also erodes public trust and increases the cost of doing business.
203. We are reviewing the **Public Financial Management (PFM), Public Debt Management and Public Procurement Acts** to strengthen discipline and value for money.
204. We are preparing the **Electronic Government Procurement System**; we have rolled out digital audit-follow-up software across Government and deployed **PFM Smart to all twenty-one Local Councils**.
205. Every Leone protected from waste or theft can serve a classroom, clinic, road or community. No office, status or political affiliation will shield anyone from lawful scrutiny.

D. LOCAL GOVERNMENT, DECENTRALISATION AND TRADITIONAL GOVERNANCE

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

- 206.** Local government is where most citizens directly experience the State.
- 207.** My Government will deepen decentralisation by devolving greater responsibilities with corresponding resources, strengthening local revenue mobilisation and improving coordination with the central Government.
- 208.** Local councils must manage public resources transparently and deliver measurable improvements in roads, markets, water supply and sanitation, healthcare, education and other essential services.
- 209.** Paramount Chiefs and traditional authorities remain indispensable to community leadership, peacebuilding and social cohesion. As custodians of tradition, they understand their communities and hold a distinct place in our system of governance.
- 210.** We will strengthen cooperation with Paramount Chiefs on local development, land and community disputes, public safety and service delivery, while preserving the respective roles of councils and traditional authorities.
- 211.** Traditional leaders must remain accessible, impartial and responsive to their people.
- 212.** Following extensive consultations, I have established a **Technical Committee**, led by the **Honourable Vice President**, to examine the proposal to increase **Paramount Chief** representation in Parliament from one to two representatives per district.
- 213.** The Committee will undertake inclusive consultations and evidence-based technical work before submitting recommendations consistent with our Constitution and laws.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

- 214.** Decentralisation succeeds when institutions cooperate, resources are responsibly managed, and citizens experience tangible improvements.
- 215.** The same principles must guide the management of our natural wealth. Petroleum, minerals and tourism must deliver fair and lasting benefits to communities and the nation.

IX. EXTRACTIVES SECTOR

A. UPSTREAM AND MIDSTREAM PETROLEUM SECTOR

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

216. Sierra Leone may be approaching an important new economic chapter in oil and gas. While the prospects are encouraging, only drilling can confirm a commercial discovery.
217. **F.A. Oil Limited** completed a **three-dimensional seismic survey** valued at approximately **USD 30 million** at no cost to the Government. The data are now being processed and interpreted to strengthen our understanding of the offshore basin and inform investors.
218. Subject to favourable results, regulatory approval and a final investment decision, Sierra Leone could witness its first offshore exploration well since 2012.
219. Global energy companies **Eni and Shell** have also acquired **Reconnaissance Permits** to assess the basin's potential, reinforcing Sierra Leone's position as a frontier exploration destination.
220. The Government has concluded negotiations with **Marginal Energy Limited** on a **Petroleum Licence Agreement** providing for a minimum investment of **USD 225 million** over seven years.
221. Subject to Parliamentary approval, it will promote local content, skills development, technology transfer and opportunities for Sierra Leoneans.
222. We are also reprocessing seismic data, modernising the **National Petroleum Data Repository** and reviewing the legal framework to support transparent and responsible investment.
223. The **Sierra Leone National Petroleum Company Limited** will serve as the State's commercial arm, enabling national participation across the petroleum value chain and creating opportunities for Sierra Leonean businesses and professionals.
224. Sierra Leone signed the **Intergovernmental Agreement for the African Atlantic Gas Pipeline** at the **ECOWAS Summit** in Lungi on 19th July 2026, building on the **2022 Memorandum of Understanding**.
225. The proposed **USD 26 billion, 6,800-kilometre pipeline would link Nigeria and Morocco through Atlantic coastal states**, advancing regional integration, investment and energy security.
226. All petroleum activities will remain subject to rigorous oversight. Any discovery must deliver lasting value to the State, develop Sierra Leonean skills and enterprises, and support our long-term national development.

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

227. Petroleum holds significant promise for the future. Mining, however, concerns the mineral wealth already being extracted from our soil.

B. MINING SECTOR

Mr Speaker, Honourable Members,

228. Sierra Leone's mineral wealth must deliver lasting prosperity for our people. Mining remains our largest source of foreign exchange and a major contributor to revenue, employment and economic stability.

229. Mineral exports reached **USD 1.3 billion** in 2025 — an increase of **16 per cent** over 2024 and **44 per cent** over 2023. The sector generated **USD 55.8 million** in non-tax revenue and supported **15,543 formal jobs**, more than **92 per cent** of them held by Sierra Leoneans.

230. In the first half of 2026, mineral exports declined by **8.2 per cent** to **USD 651.7 million**, mainly due to lower exports of mineral sands and diamonds.

231. Yet **non-tax revenue** increased by **21.3 per cent** to **USD 30.2 million**, royalties rose by **17.3 per cent**, and formal employment grew by **10.3 per cent** to **17,140 jobs**.

232. **Gold** is emerging as a second pillar, with export value increasing by more than fivefold. However, **iron ore** still accounted for **73.3 per cent** of mineral exports, with a single operator responsible for **64.9 per cent**. Diversification is therefore essential to protect our economy from shocks affecting any one commodity or company.

233. **Twenty new exploration licences** issued in 2025 signal renewed investor interest. Planned expansions are expected to create **4,500 additional jobs** and increase annual mineral exports to between **USD 2 billion** and **USD 2.5 billion** by 2028.

234. Our 2026 minerals reform programme will strengthen artisanal mining, geodata and critical-minerals governance, while promoting greater processing and value addition within Sierra Leone.

235. We are also strengthening price verification, inter-agency revenue coordination and the digital **Mines and Minerals Management System** to secure a fairer return from our natural resources.

236. Where suspended operations or restructuring threaten jobs and local stability, we will continue working with companies, workers and affected communities.

237. Under the **Mines and Minerals Development Act 2022**, qualifying companies must contribute at least **1 per cent** of gross revenue to **Community Development Funds**. In 2025, **Marampa Mines Limited** contributed **NLe 83.7 million** and **Leone Rock Metal Group** approximately **NLe 62.2 million** — a combined total of **NLe 145.9 million** for host communities.

238. These funds must be managed transparently and invested in local priorities, including roads, water, schools, healthcare and sustainable livelihoods. Mining companies must

also meet their environmental obligations, rehabilitate affected land and protect host communities.

- 239.** Women currently represent **18.6 per cent** of the mining workforce, while their participation in senior management has risen from **15 per cent to 20.4 per cent**. We must accelerate this progress by opening more technical and leadership opportunities to Sierra Leonean women.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

- 240.** The true measure of success is not how much we extract or export, but how mineral wealth improves the lives of our people. We will create decent jobs, strengthen Sierra Leonean businesses and equip our engineers, geologists and other professionals to lead world-class mining operations.

X. TOURISM, CULTURE AND THE CREATIVE ECONOMY

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

- 241.** Our beaches, islands, forests, wildlife, historic sites and cultural traditions offer significant opportunities for jobs, enterprise, investment and foreign-exchange earnings.
- 242.** We are promoting these assets and improving access, infrastructure and standards. Each visitor supports Sierra Leonean livelihoods in lodging, transport, food, guiding, crafts and entertainment.
- 243.** We will strengthen heritage conservation, community-based tourism and cultural festivals, while supporting music, film, fashion, literature, crafts and the performing arts.
- 244.** Through skills development, intellectual property protection, and better access to finance and markets, we will help Sierra Leonean creatives build sustainable livelihoods.
- 245.** The communities that preserve our natural and cultural heritage must also share fairly in the economic benefits.
- 246.** Tourism depends on a country that is both beautiful and safe. Preserving that beauty requires responsible environmental stewardship.

XI. THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

- 247.** Our natural resources must build our future without destroying the land, waters and communities that sustain us.
- 248. Climate change is already affecting lives.** Changing rainfall, flooding, coastal erosion, deforestation and land degradation threaten agriculture, infrastructure, health and livelihoods, especially in vulnerable communities.
- 249.** Illegal logging and indiscriminate tree-cutting for charcoal, scaffolding and other commercial purposes are destroying forests and watersheds, increasing the risks of erosion, flooding and landslides.
- 250.** We will strengthen enforcement, expand reforestation and sustainable woodlots, and promote cleaner alternatives to charcoal.
- 251.** As the heaviest rains approach, responsible agencies must prepare and respond swiftly. Citizens must exercise caution, heed official warnings and stop dumping waste in drains and waterways.
- 252.** Proper urban planning is essential to protecting lives and property. Construction must not be permitted on waterways, drainage channels, unstable slopes or other high-risk locations.
- 253.** We will enforce planning regulations, clear obstructed waterways and, where necessary, lawfully and humanely relocate unlawful settlements from dangerous areas, with appropriate support for vulnerable households.
- 254.** We are strengthening disaster preparedness, early-warning systems, ecosystem restoration, waste and drainage management, and the protection of forests, mangroves, wetlands, watersheds and coastlines.
- 255.** Local councils, planning authorities and environmental agencies must enforce the law consistently, while citizens and businesses share responsibility for protecting our communities and natural resources.
- 256.** Climate resilience must guide how we plan our cities, develop agriculture and build infrastructure. Internationally, Sierra Leone will continue to advocate for fair access to climate finance, technology and support for loss and damage.
- 257.** Development must be sustainable and inclusive. How we share its benefits and costs shapes public trust, national cohesion and confidence in democracy.

XII. NATIONAL COHESION AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

- 258.** Our progress as a nation depends on peace, trust and a shared sense of purpose. Development must reach every region and benefit every Sierra Leonean, regardless of ethnicity, gender or political affiliation.
- 259.** Our investments in infrastructure, education, healthcare, agriculture and social protection must reduce regional inequalities, expand opportunity and bring Government closer to the people.
- 260.** Political disagreement is natural in a democracy. Tribalism, hate speech, misinformation and violence, however, divide our people and weaken our Republic.
- 261.** Government, Parliament, political parties, traditional and religious leaders, civil society and the media all have a responsibility to promote tolerance, responsible dialogue and peaceful engagement. **Whatever our differences, we are Sierra Leoneans first.**
- 262.** In this spirit, I acknowledge the decision of **the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice** to discontinue the criminal proceedings against **former President Ernest Bai Koroma**, in accordance with the authority conferred by **Section 45 of the Criminal Procedure Act 2024**.
- 263.** I hope this decision will help reduce political tensions, advance reconciliation and enable us to focus more fully on the pressing challenges facing our people.
- 264.** Former **President Koroma** remains part of our nation's history, and I trust that he will continue to support Sierra Leone's peace, unity and democratic progress.
- 265.** I call on all sides to receive this development with maturity and embrace it as an opportunity for continued dialogue and national healing.
- 266.** Reconciliation is strongest when grounded in respect for the law, confidence in our institutions and a shared commitment to the future of Sierra Leone.

XIII. ACCESS TO JUSTICE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND THE RULE OF LAW

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

- 267.** Every citizen must trust that their rights will be protected, disputes will be resolved fairly, and public institutions will act without fear or favour.
- 268.** We are strengthening the Judiciary and other justice-sector institutions to expand access, reduce delays, and improve efficiency and transparency. Faster, fairer resolution protects families, property and businesses from years of uncertainty.
- 269.** We are also investing in judicial infrastructure, law enforcement and correctional services to protect the public while upholding the rights and dignity of every person.

270. Peace, security and the rule of law are foundations of democratic stability, national development and investor confidence. Justice must therefore be accessible, timely and equal for all.

XIV. ELECTORAL REFORM AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

271. Public confidence depends on the integrity and credibility of our electoral process.
272. My Government remains committed to credible elections, constitutional governance and the peaceful transfer of political authority.
273. We will continue to implement the electoral reforms arising from the **Agreement for National Unity and the recommendations of the Tripartite Committee**.
274. These reforms must address weaknesses identified in previous elections, strengthen the independence and effectiveness of electoral institutions, and improve transparency throughout the electoral process.
275. This is a shared national responsibility. Government, Parliament, the Judiciary, electoral institutions, political parties and civil society must each play their part.
276. Public trust grows when commitments are transparent, progress is measurable, and outcomes are independently verifiable.
277. That trust also depends on access to accurate information; freedom of expression and institutions that listen and respond to the people they serve.

XV. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

278. Democracy requires continuous engagement between citizens and institutions.
279. We have expanded public consultations, town halls, media briefings and digital platforms to explain decisions, understand concerns and shape responses.
280. **Ministries, Departments and Agencies** must communicate clearly and accurately. We will strengthen civic education and improve access to information on government programmes, public expenditure and service delivery.
281. Misinformation must be addressed responsibly, with full respect for freedom of expression and media independence.
282. Citizens have a right to be heard, and Government has a duty to listen and respond.
283. Accountable governance at home strengthens Sierra Leone's credibility abroad and our ability to advance the national interest.

XVI. FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: SIERRA LEONE'S RETURN TO REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

- 284.** Sierra Leone's journey from civil war to peace and regional leadership has strengthened our voice abroad and our ability to defend the national interest through strategic partnerships.
- 285.** In July 2025, regional leaders elected me **Chair of the ECOWAS Authority**, making me the first Sierra Leonean President to hold that office in more than 40 years. I assumed this responsibility amid terrorism, unconstitutional changes of government and economic pressure across our region.
- 286.** During our tenure, Sierra Leone advanced dialogue, constitutional governance and cooperation against terrorism and organised crime.
- 287.** We also promoted engagement with Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger; regional trade and infrastructure; food and health security; and greater opportunities for young people.
- 288.** In November 2025, during Sierra Leone's tenure on **the United Nations Security Council**, I chaired a high-level debate on regional peace and security, bringing West Africa's priorities to the centre of global deliberations.
- 289.** We concluded our **ECOWAS Chairmanship** by successfully hosting the **Mid-Year Statutory Meetings**, culminating in the **Sixty-Ninth Ordinary Session of the Authority** on 19 July 2026.
- 290.** Ahead of the Summit, we commissioned the **Julius Maada Bio International Conference Centre and the ECOWAS Logistics Depot in Lungi**. These strategic facilities will support diplomacy, business, regional cooperation and preparedness for peace support operations.
- 291.** The **ECOWAS Summit** welcomed over **1,000 delegates, including seven Heads of State, two Vice Presidents, ministers, diplomats, senior officials and representatives of regional and international institutions**.
- 292.** The Authority adopted important commitments on the **Future of Regional Integration, the African Atlantic Gas Pipeline and gender parity in political representation**.
- 293.** I thank the officials, security personnel, volunteers, businesses and citizens whose dedication made the Summit possible.
- 294.** I also congratulate **His Excellency Bassirou Diomaye Faye, President of Senegal**, on succeeding me as Chair of the Authority.
- 295.** Building on this momentum, the **West Africa Integration and Investment Summit** will be held in Lungi in November, bringing together leaders, investors and businesses to advance projects in energy, strategic minerals, agribusiness and digital transformation.

296. Our international engagement must ultimately deliver tangible benefits at home, including investment, jobs, security, skills and wider markets for Sierra Leonean businesses.
297. That is the standard by which our people will judge Sierra Leone's leadership and engagement with the world.

XVII. CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

298. I began this Address with the principle that **public office is a sacred trust**. That conviction remains. Policies, investments and international recognition matter only when they improve the lives of the people we serve.
299. As we look to the year ahead, the test is not the plans we announce, but the results our people can see and feel.
300. We are producing more food, investing in education and healthcare, expanding infrastructure, creating opportunities for young people and reforming public institutions.
301. However, serious challenges remain. Families face high living costs, young people need work, communities need better services and citizens deserve institutions that respond promptly and fairly. We hear these concerns, understand their urgency and are acting on them.
302. This **Year of Action and Accelerated Delivery** will therefore be judged by completed projects and tangible improvements in people's lives.
303. Before the next **State Opening of Parliament**, we will focus on increasing food production; expanding electricity and clean water services; completing priority roads and bridges; improving essential healthcare and education; creating pathways to skills, employment and enterprise for young people and women; strengthening public-service delivery and continuing to build an economy that creates jobs and raises living standards; and reducing delays in public services.
304. **Every Ministry, Department and Agency** will be held to clear, measurable targets, judged by delivery, discipline, transparency and value for money. Performance will be reviewed, progress published, delays explained and failures corrected.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

305. During my recent Presidential Town Hall in Makeni, I met **Kadiatu**, a young mother from rural Bombali who became pregnant at 15 and left school four years ago.
306. Through skills training and opportunities in agriculture and enterprise, she has rebuilt her life and now earns an income to support her child.
307. Her story reminds us that national transformation means giving every Sierra Leonean the opportunity to recover, work and live with dignity.

308. Our true measure is the **farmer** who produces and earns more, the child who remains in school, the **mother** who survives childbirth, the **young person** who finds meaningful work and the **citizen** who receives fair treatment from a public institution.
309. **Honourable Members**, remain close to your districts. Listen to your people, bring their priorities into this Chamber, enact sound laws, exercise responsible oversight and protect public resources.
310. The **Executive, Legislature and Judiciary** have distinct constitutional responsibilities, but we serve one Republic. We must respect our respective mandates, uphold judicial independence and the separation of powers, and work together in the national interest.
311. Government cannot do this alone. National development is a shared undertaking.
312. I acknowledge Parliament, Cabinet, public servants, local councils, traditional and religious leaders, the Judiciary, security services, civil society, the media, the private sector and Sierra Leoneans at home and in the diaspora for their contributions to our national progress.
313. I also thank our development partners, friendly nations, investors and international organisations for their continued partnership.
314. Above all, I thank the people of Sierra Leone for your hard work and resilience. You have carried heavy burdens and rightly expect your Government to deliver.
315. The work ahead will not be easy, but we will listen, correct what is not working and remain focused on the results that matter in daily life.
316. Let this **Fourth Session** be remembered for sound laws, responsible oversight, stronger institutions and decisions that improved the lives of Sierra Leoneans.
317. Let us place Sierra Leone above region, tribe, religion and party, and serve our people in the true spirit of **Unity, Freedom and Justice**.
318. Together, let us finish the work, turn Sierra Leone's potential into lasting prosperity and leave our country stronger than we found it.
319. May God bless the people of Sierra Leone, guide the deliberations of this Honourable House and bless our beloved Republic.

I thank you.