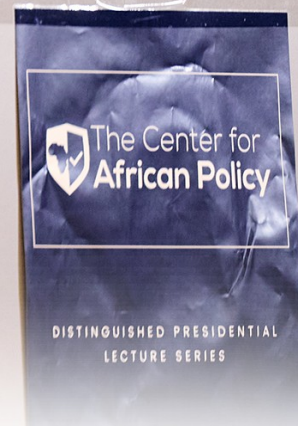




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SIERRA LEONE'S PRESIDENT JULIUS MAADA BIO CALLS FOR AFRICAN LEADERSHIP GROUNDED IN RESILIENCE AND REFORM AT OXFORD AFRICA CONFERENCE 2026.

University of Oxford, Oxford, England, 17 May 2026 - President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Chairman of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government, Julius Maada Bio, called for bold, practical and resilient leadership across Africa as the continent navigates an era of global disruption, political uncertainty, climate pressure and technological transformation.

Delivering the Presidential Keynote Address at the Oxford Africa Conference 2026 held at the University of Oxford under the theme, "Anchoring Africa: Grounded, Game-Changing Leadership in the Age of Disruption," President Bio said Africa's future would depend not only on reclaiming its voice, but on building durable institutions capable of withstanding modern challenges. "I spoke last year about African agency," President Bio stated. "This year, we must ask something harder: Can what we define endure? Can it survive shocks and disruptions?"



SIERRA LEONE'S PRESIDENT JULIUS MAADA BIO DELIVERS HISTORIC OXFORD ADDRESS ON DEMOCRACY, GOVERNANCE, AND AFRICA'S FUTURE



University of Oxford, Oxford, England, 18 May 2026 – President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Chairman of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government, His Excellency, Dr. Julius Maada Bio, delivered a powerful and reflective lecture at the prestigious Oxford Postgraduate Distinguished Lecture Series, urging African leaders, institutions, and citizens to defend constitutional democracy amid growing coups and electoral uncertainty in West Africa. Speaking at the University of Oxford on Monday, 18 May 2026, President Bio addressed postgraduate students, faculty members, diplomats, and academics on the theme: "Defending Constitutional Democracy in an Era of Growing Coups and Electoral Uncertainty in West Africa."

In a deeply introspective and statesmanlike address, President Bio acknowledged the growing pressures facing democratic systems across West Africa, citing military coups, declining institutional trust, economic hardship, insecurity, and political instability as major threats to constitutional governance. "Across our region, constitutional democracy is under pressure," the President stated, noting that since 2020, West Africa has witnessed successive military coups in Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Guinea-Bissau.

SIERRA LEONE'S PRESIDENT JULIUS MAADA BIO CALLS FOR STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP AND AFRICAN RENEWAL IN A CHANGING WORLD AT CAMBRIDGE AFRICA TOGETHER CONFERENCE, 2026

University of Cambridge, England, Friday 22 May 2026 - His Excellency President Dr Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Chairman of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government, delivered a compelling Presidential Lecture at the Africa Together Conference 2026 at the University of Cambridge, calling on African nations to embrace strategic leadership, institutional resilience, and bold decision-making in an era of global disruption. Speaking on the theme, "Africa in an Age of Disruption: Power, Agency and Strategic Choice," President Bio reflected on Africa's complex historical journey and the urgent need for the continent to move from dependency to strategic agency in shaping the future global order.

Addressing scholars, students, members of the African diaspora, and distinguished guests at the prestigious University of Cambridge, President Bio described the current global moment as one defined by rapid technological change, climate pressures, geopolitical fragmentation, and democratic fragility. He warned that Africa's greatest risk was not disruption itself, but "entering an age of disruption without strategic agency." Drawing from Sierra Leone's own history, the President recounted his experiences during the country's civil conflict and transition from military rule to democratic governance in 1996. He emphasized that true leadership lies not in seizing power, but in submitting power to constitutional order.





SIERRA LEONE'S PRESIDENT JULIUS MAADA BIO PAYS TRIBUTE TO GENERAL ABDULSALAMI ABUBAKAR AT AUTOBIOGRAPHY LAUNCH AND 84TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Aso Rock Presidential Villa, Abuja, Nigeria, Saturday, 13 June 2026 – His Excellency President Dr. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Chairman of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government, joined distinguished African leaders in Abuja to celebrate the 84th birthday of former Nigerian Head of State, General Abdulsalami Abubakar, GCFR, and the launch of his autobiography. The event brought together eminent statesmen, diplomats, and regional leaders to honour one of Africa's most respected champions of democracy, peace, and good governance.

Delivering the keynote goodwill message as Guest of Honour, President Bio reflected on his own democratic transition in Sierra Leone and drew parallels with General Abdulsalami's historic decision to return Nigeria to civilian rule. "Such courage requires a true statesman who places country above self-interest. Having also overseen a democratic transition and relinquished power to a democratically elected government, I understand the significance of such a decision. Within three months, I handed over power. I chose nation over personal ambition and democracy over self-interest," President Bio stated. Speaking as both ECOWAS Chairman and a grateful Sierra Leonean, President Bio recalled Nigeria's critical role in restoring peace and democracy in Sierra Leone through ECOMOG.

WEST AFRICA INTEGRATION AND INVESTMENT SUMMIT (WAIIS) GAINS MOMENTUM AS TONY ELUMELU BACKS LANDMARK REGIONAL ECONOMIC AGENDA



Abuja, Nigeria, Sunday, 14 June 2026 – The West Africa Integration and Investment Summit (WAIIS), an initiative of the Chairman of ECOWAS, the President of Sierra Leone, Julius Maada Bio, received a major boost following a high-level engagement in Abuja between President Julius Maada Bio, and leading African business leader and philanthropist, Tony Elumelu, who pledged his full support for the landmark regional initiative. The WAIIS, which is being convened under President Bio's leadership from 16–18 November 2026, is positioned as a transformative platform to accelerate economic integration across West Africa by mobilizing governments, development partners, investors, and the private sector around a shared agenda for regional growth and prosperity.

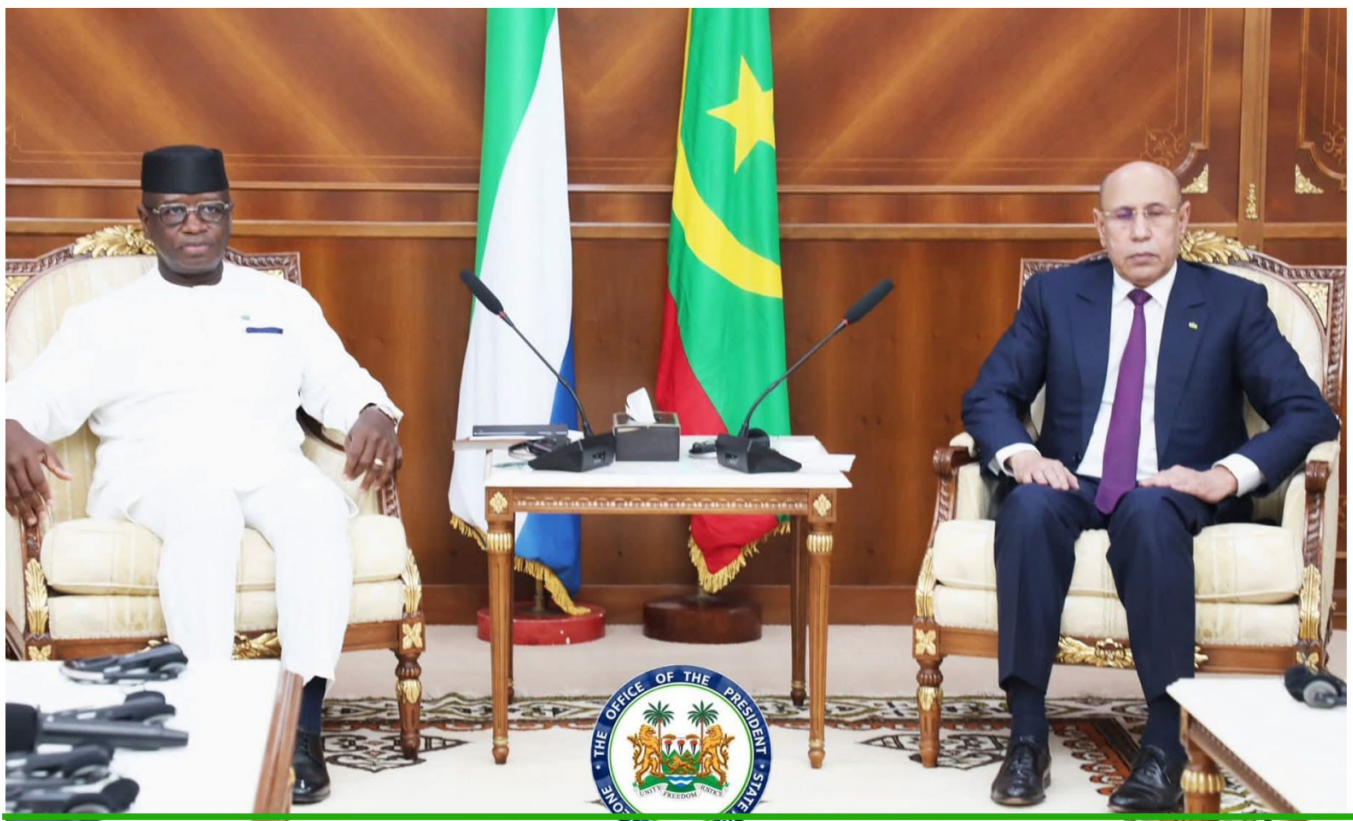
A key architect of the Summit framework and Special Envoy for the Summit, Dr. Kandeh K. Yumkella, highlighted the Summit's ambition to move beyond dialogue by generating investment frameworks, analytical reports, and a pipeline of bankable regional projects capable of attracting significant public and private capital. Tony Elumelu praised President Bio's leadership and the Summit's focus on practical economic transformation through regional cooperation and investment. He further affirmed his readiness to support WAIIS financially and to actively mobilize leading African private sector titans to support the Summit and the follow-up activities in order to translate policy frameworks into real investments and economic impact.

His commitment is expected to enhance the Summit's visibility and credibility among investors, development finance institutions, and business leaders across Africa and beyond, while reinforcing the critical role of the private sector in advancing regional integration and sustainable economic growth.

SIERRA LEONE'S PRESIDENT BIO AND MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT GHAZOUANI REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO REGIONAL PEACE, SECURITY AND COOPERATION

Presidential Palace, Nouakchott, Mauritania, Monday, 15 June 2026 – His Excellency President Dr. Julius Maada Bio, Chairman of the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government and President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, held high-level talks with His Excellency President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on regional security, cooperation, and development. President Bio conveyed warm greetings from the Government and people of Sierra Leone and commended President Ghazouani's leadership and Mauritania's contribution to peace, security, and stability in the region.

The two leaders discussed the evolving security situation in the Sahel and West Africa, including terrorism, violent extremism, organized crime, climate-related pressures, food insecurity, and population displacement. President Bio stressed that these interconnected challenges require coordinated regional responses, sustained dialogue, and stronger cooperation to preserve peace, constitutional order, and social cohesion. President Bio underscored the importance of deepening cooperation between Mauritania and ECOWAS, noting that stronger institutional engagement would help address shared challenges, expand trade and investment, facilitate the movement of people and goods, and advance regional integration.



SIERRA LEONE'S PRESIDENT JULIUS MAADA BIO COMMEMORATES BIRTHDAY WITH AFRICAN YOUNG LEADERS' CONVERGENCE

Freetown International Conference Centre, Freetown, Tuesday 12 May 2026
- The African Young Leaders Convergence (AYLC) joined Sierra Leoneans, global figures, and well-wishers today to celebrate the birthday of His Excellency President Dr. Julius Maada Bio through a high-level youth-led convergence themed: "From Potential to Power: Unlocking Youth Agency for Africa's Transformation."

The event formed part of the second edition of the Julius Maada Bio Leadership Colloquium, an initiative designed to institutionalize leadership dialogue, strengthen collaboration across Africa, and promote innovative solutions to the continent's pressing challenges.

During a fireside conversation on leadership and governance, President Bio reaffirmed his commitment to democratic leadership, stating that he would peacefully hand over power to the next democratically elected president at the end of his tenure. Reflecting on his role during the conflicts in Sierra Leone and Liberia, he described leadership as service and sacrifice in the interest of peace and democracy.

The President emphasized that Africa's future depends on the investments made in young people today, particularly in education, technology, innovation, and skills development. He encouraged youth to take bold, informed, and patriotic actions in shaping the continent's future.





SIERRA LEONE'S PRESIDENT JULIUS MAADA BIO HOSTS LANDMARK AFRICA LEADERSHIP COLLOQUIUM ON COURAGE, ACCOUNTABILITY AND INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

Freetown International Conference Center, Wednesday, 13 May 2026 - The Julius Maada Bio Leadership Colloquium, organized by the African Young Leadership Convergence (AYLC), convened African leaders, policymakers, youth representatives, traditional authorities, diplomats, and women leaders at the Freetown International Conference Center on 13 May 2026 for high-level discussions on the future of African governance and leadership. Held as part of activities marking the birthday of President Julius Maada Bio, the colloquium focused on the theme: "Reimagining African Leadership: Courage, Accountability, Innovation and Leadership in an Era of Global Uncertainty."

Delivering the keynote address, President Julius Maada Bio stated that the colloquium represented more than a ceremonial gathering or an exchange of ideas. He described it as "a reckoning, both reflection and responsibility," stressing that Africa stands at a defining moment in its history. "We are here to confront a defining and unavoidable question: What kind of leadership will shape Africa's future in this century?" the President declared, emphasizing that Africa must define its own moment through decisive leadership, accountability, and innovation.

PRESIDENT JULIUS MAADA BIO COMMISSIONS MANOWA BRIDGE, CONNECTING COMMUNITIES AND UNLOCKING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN EASTERN SIERRA LEONE

Manowa Town, Kailahun District, Saturday, 20 June 2026 – His Excellency President Dr. Julius Maada Bio formally commissioned the Manowa Bridge over the Moa River in Peje Bongre Chiefdom, Kailahun District, marking a major milestone in the Government's efforts to improve connectivity, facilitate trade, and accelerate socio-economic development across Sierra Leone. Constructed under the World Bank-supported Smallholder Commercialisation and Agribusiness Development Project (SCADeP), the modern bridge spans the Moa River and is designed to serve communities safely and efficiently for generations to come.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, President Bio reflected on the challenges that residents of Manowa, Pendembu, and surrounding communities had endured for decades as a result of inadequate transport infrastructure.

"For generations, the journey between these communities was never measured by distance alone. It was measured by whether the ferry was operating, whether the rains had arrived, and whether crossing the Moa River was possible at all," the President recalled.



PRESIDENT JULIUS MAADA BIO HIGHLIGHTS GAINS IN GOVERNMENT, REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE AND NATIONAL UNITY AT PRESIDENTIAL TOWN HALL MEETING IN MAKENI

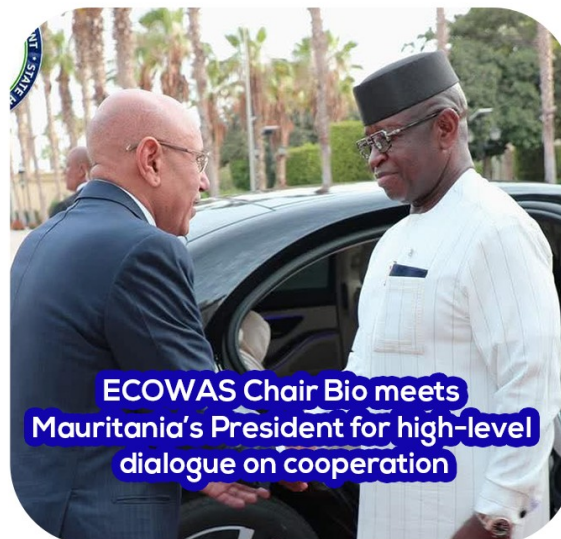
Fatima hall, University of Makeni, 30 June 2026 - His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio highlighted gains in Government and reaffirmed his administration's commitment to transparent, inclusive and people-centred governance during a Presidential Town Hall Meeting in Makeni.

President Bio outlined his achievements, noting expanded educational access for two million children, increased electricity coverage to 36%, significant reductions in maternal and child mortality by 79% and 59% respectively, a drop in food inflation from 19% to 2.56%, and major infrastructure developments including 473.46 km of paved roads and the construction of 24 bridges.

He reiterated his dedication to enhancing education quality, expanding access to electricity, strengthening collaboration with the private sector on ongoing road expansion projects, increasing investment in human capital development, and advancing women's involvement in agriculture and national development.



PHOTO GALLERY



KEY QUOTATIONS

