



**ACCEPTANCE ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY
DR JULIUS MAADA BIO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF SIERRA LEONE, FOLLOWING THE OATH OF
OFFICE AS PRESIDENT-ELECT IN THE 2023
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE
TUESDAY, JUNE 27th, 2023**

Honourable Vice President,

Honourable Speaker of Parliament,

The Honourable Chief Justice,

Madam First Lady,

Members of the Judiciary,

Ministers of Government,

Honourable Members of Parliament,

Our Revered Traditional and Local Government Leaders,

Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps,

Members of the Security and Intelligence Services,

Ministries, Departments, and Agencies,

Civil Society and Advocacy Organisations,

Members of the Fourth Estate,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

My Fellow Sierra Leoneans,

- 1.** I am extremely humbled and immensely thankful for the trust and confidence you have placed in me with your overwhelming vote – securing me and the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) victory to lead our great nation, Sierra Leone, for another term of five years.

- 2.** With this second-term mandate, you have proven, beyond every reasonable doubt, your abiding faith in my capacity to sustain and advance the transformational work that we began in 2018.

- 3.** For this, I must thank the Almighty God for his abundant mercies and blessings that have brought us thus far.

4. I thank all of you, dear citizens, for coming out in record numbers to peacefully exercise your constitutional right to elect your leaders, regardless of your affiliation.
5. This has been a peaceful electoral process that has produced an incontestable result that truly reflects the will of the people. I thank all our citizens for their abiding belief in our democracy.
6. Today, with the successful conduct of the 2023 multi-tier elections, Sierra Leone stands tall among young democracies for our efforts in consolidating our democratic gains.
7. Peaceful conduct of successive democratic elections has become our national ethos, giving our country the highest accolade in the league of stable democracies worldwide.

- 8.** Throughout our campaign, we were confident that our achievements in the past five years, amidst stifling global economic challenges, resonated very well with the aspirations of the people.
- 9.** In that spirit, we traversed the length and breadth of our country to give account of our stewardship over the last five years and share our national development plan for the next five years. This rigorous campaign culminated in the victory we are marking today.
- 10.** The focus of my next Government shall be Food Security, consolidating gains in Human Capital Development, creating jobs for our youth, revamping the Public Service and developing technology and infrastructure.

- 11.** This victory wouldn't have been possible without the active support of our SLPP leadership, loyal party members, campaign management team, trusted confidants, volunteers, stakeholders and the Progressive Alliance Members.
- 12.** I sincerely thank you for the many sacrifices and for supporting my able Running Mate and Vice President, Dr Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh and I throughout our campaign period. Our victory is your victory. Congratulations!
- 13.** Fellow Sierra Leoneans, with the election results, your voices have been heard loud and clear, and I promise to commence the process of bringing together our progressive forces, including political party leaders, Civil Society Organisations, and religious and traditional

leaders to forge a common front to move this country forward.

- 14.** Fellow Citizens, our paths and lives are intertwined, so we must not allow politics to tear us apart. It is within our right to hold different views and persuasions, but now that the elections are over, we must reunite in pursuit of a common goal: **enhancing peace, prosperity and progress of Sierra Leone.**
- 15.** Fellow Sierra Leoneans, I am always committed to being a fair leader and the President for all. Regardless of your political affiliation, tribe, religion, or socioeconomic background, I dedicate myself to serving you with dedication, integrity, and commitment. Our victory today is not just mine; it belongs to every Sierra Leonean

who dreams of a brighter and better future for our nation.

- 16.** I, therefore, extend a hand of fellowship to my brother and foremost opposition leader, Dr Samura Kamara of the All People's Congress (APC), to join us in the arduous task of nation-building. The job ahead is enormous, but collectively, we can build the country of our dreams — the Sierra Leone our current and future generations deserve.
- 17.** It is time for us to join hands in blurring the lines drawn during the spirited campaign season and reunite as one united family — proud members of the Sierra Leonean nation.

- 18.** We are all united in our love for Sierra Leone. If we falter, our country will suffer. Conversely, if we succeed, our collective prosperity flourishes. Today, I humbly seek the support and collaboration of all our citizens in forging ahead to build a prosperous Sierra Leone.
- 19.** I want to continue admonishing all Sierra Leoneans to be peaceful and law-abiding. In particular, I ask my supporters to be exemplary in being peaceful and magnanimous in victory. We ran a peaceful, principled and progressive campaign. Therefore, we must remain peaceful, law-abiding and embrace our brothers and sisters on opposite sides to join our efforts to build Mama Salone.

- 20.** We commend the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone (ECSL) for conducting a free, fair, transparent and credible election. With each election cycle, we have increasingly improved on the process as it is vital to our democratic ideals.
- 21.** Finally, I thank the local and International Observer Missions, the media, and our development partners for holding our country to higher standards and ensuring that these elections stand the test of international best practices and global scrutiny.
- 22.** Fellow Sierra Leoneans, thank you again for your unwavering and enthusiastic support and the opportunity to serve our great nation at the highest office of the land.

- 23.** Let me leave you with this famous quote by Abraham Lincoln (**I quote**): **"The best way to predict the future is to create it."** (**end quote**)
- 24.** As a true believer in the unrivalled innate capacity of our people, the future we seek for Sierra Leone lies with us. We must all offer our collective support towards transforming this country. I invite you all to join me as we create the future we desire and deserve for our great nation.
- 25.** May God bless the Republic of Sierra Leone, and may God bless us all.