



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY,
DR. JULIUS MAADA BIO, PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE AT THE
DISTRICT LEVEL LAUNCH OF THE
POPULARISATION OF THE MEDIUM-TERM
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (MTNDP),
2024-2030
MOYAMBA DISTRICT MINI STADIUM,
WEDNESDAY 10TH JULY 2024**

- **Mr Chairman**
- **Our Revered Paramount Chiefs**
- **Heads of Ministries, Departments and Agencies**
- **Honourable Members of Parliament**
- **Our Esteemed Development Partners**
- **Chairperson and Chief Administrator of Moyamba District Council**
- **Civil Society and NGO Representatives**
- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

1. Today opens a new chapter in our Government's desire to localise our developmental strides and place the key to the country's sustainable economic growth and development in the hands of the people.

2. This initiative is not just a plan but a promise to every Sierra Leonean — **a promise of progress, prosperity, and a brighter future for all.**

3. **The Medium-Term Development Plan 2024-2030** is a testament to our collective ambition and our unwavering commitment to sustainable development.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

4. On January 30th this year, we launched the new **Medium-Term National Development Plan** in Freetown. However, the most important launch of this document is beginning now as we kick-start the process of handing over the ownership of the Plan to the people across the 16 districts.

5. This Plan is the successor to our previous National Development Plan, which shaped my Government's agenda in the first term through which we achieved several milestones in the areas of free quality school education, health care delivery system, roads and infrastructure, governance, and the fight against corruption.

6. This new Development Plan provides a pathway for an accelerated delivery of a Sierra Leone that is well-prepared to meet its inclusive and green middle-income aspiration by 2038.

7. Today's launch is particularly significant as it underscores the importance of localising our development efforts.

8. District-level popularisation ensures that every community, every district, and every citizen is actively engaged in the development process.

9. This inclusive approach allows us to tailor our strategies to meet the unique needs and aspirations of our diverse population.

10. We recognise that meaningful development cannot be achieved from the top down. It requires the active participation of our local leaders, community members, civil society, and the private sector.

11. Together, we will identify local priorities, mobilise resources, and steadfastly implement solutions that drive sustainable development in every corner of Sierra Leone.

12. This is not just a Plan for the Government but a collective effort involving all stakeholders.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

13. As we build on the gains made in the past few years, this new Plan will build on successes and outstanding deliverables from the previous plan of 2019-2023 and the emerging challenges, scaling up efforts to accelerate the delivery of desired and better development results for our people.

14. Among the remaining challenges we face are the need to scale up domestic financing for development, reduce extreme poverty and food insecurity, address energy needs, improve the country's human capital index, increase people's participation in finance and development, and transform the public sector architecture to effectively and efficiently deliver public goods and services.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

15. In response to these challenges, we have crafted this new Plan around our Government's **BIG FIVE GAME CHANGERS**, which define

the strategic priorities of the state and the people of Sierra Leone for the period 2024-2030.

16. The BIG FIVE GAME CHANGERS are:

- I. FEED SALONE**, aimed at boosting agricultural productivity to ensure food security, inclusive economic growth and social stability;
- II. HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT**, focused on delivering inclusive skills and a healthy population for the 21st-century demands;
- III. YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SCHEME**, with a programme to supply 500,000 jobs for youths in the next 5 to 7 years;
- IV. TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT**, focused on increasing investment in infrastructure, technology and digitalisation; and
- V. TRANSFORMING THE PUBLIC SERVICE ARCHITECTURE** with a view to ensuring efficiency and professionalism in the public sector.

17. Each of these BIG FIVE result areas is strategically aimed at delivering a specific national goal by 2030:

- I. GOAL 1: A food-self-sufficient country;**
- II. GOAL 2: A highly capable labour force;**
- III. GOAL 3: Creating 500,000 new jobs for the youth;**
- IV. GOAL 4: A highly productive economy;** and
- V. GOAL 5: A capable and effective public service.**

18. To deliver on the BIG FIVE policy areas, the Plan has also laid out five Key Enablers as catalysts, which are:

- I. Scaling up efforts to diversify the economy for sustainable growth of the economy;**
- II. Enhancing governance and accountability for improved service delivery;**
- III. Advancing climate resilience and environmental actions;**
- IV. Accelerating gender mainstreaming efforts;** and
- V. Scaling-up financing, partnerships for implementation and mitigation of risks.**

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

19. The new **FEED SALONE Flagship Programme** constitutes a strategic shift from our previous Human Capital Development (HCD) Flagship Programme of the previous Plan 2019-2023.

20. This HCD Programme will be scaled up during 2024-2030, along with the **FEED SALONE** Programme and the other Big 5s, all of which will define the nation's strategic direction for 2030.

21. The New Medium-Term Development Plan incorporates the district development priorities in addition to the BIG FIVE GAME CHANGERS and the Five Catalytic Enablers.

22. District stakeholders carefully chose these during the Plan's preparation process, underscoring their crucial role in shaping the Plan.

23. These constitute the new Plan, which will guide the operations of all development actors in the country, our development partners, non-state actors, and the private sector.

24. Government Ministries, Departments, Agencies, and Local Councils are not just expected but crucial to play a central role in operationalising the Plan through the articulation and implementation of sectoral and local council development plans aligned to the national blueprint.

25. **Your active participation is key to the success of this plan.** It is, therefore, **a PLAN FOR THE PEOPLE and BY THE PEOPLE** that comprehensively captures the needs of every region of the country and is strongly aligned with the **United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and **the African Union Agenda 2063**.

26. By aligning with these Global Agendas, we are part of a larger international movement towards sustainable development.

27. I thank Madam Kenyeh Barlay, the Minister of Planning and Economic Development, and her ministry for facilitating the fulfilment of my Government's commitment to presenting the Medium-Term National Development Plan to you in Moyamba.

28. Let me also thank the Moyamba District Council for working closely with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development to make this engagement possible.

29. I especially thank the Resident Minister, Southern Region, and Members of Parliament from Moyamba District for facilitating this occasion.

30. As your President, I assure you of my unwavering commitment to the successful implementation of this Plan.

31. We will work diligently to translate our vision into tangible outcomes, ensuring that no one is left behind. This requires a collective effort, a shared sense of purpose, and a determination to overcome obstacles and seize opportunities.

32. From now on, we will consider capital project proposals from not only central MDAs but also Local Councils.

33. Our gathering here today is timely, as the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development and its partners have initiated the process of reviewing and preparing local council development plans.

34. We have produced and rolled out a Standardised Template and Guidelines for local council planning to ensure the effectiveness of our councils' policies and plans.

35. This is in tandem with our new National Development Plan, and it could have profound implications for effective service delivery in our districts and councils.

36. We are confident that by 2030, the Government will look forward to having Local Development Plans that are directly drawn from ward levels and that capture village/chiefdom level plans and aspirations.

37. Thus, future National Development Plans will be an aggregation of Local Plans that are comprehensively people-centred.

38. Let me conclude by thanking all those who contributed to the preparation of the new **Medium-Term National Development Plan** we are officially presenting to you today.

39. Your contributions, whether big or small, have been invaluable. This includes the Moyamba people, the Paramount Chiefs, youth and women

Representatives, district-level NGOs and CSOs, district MDAs, including the Sierra Leone Police, RSLAF, Office of the Senior District Officer, and Development Partners on the ground.

I THANK YOU ALL.

40. With these few remarks, Ladies and Gentlemen, I now have the singular honour of presenting to you the **new SIERRA LEONE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR 2024-2030 (Titled): A Transformation and Acceleration Agenda for Food Security, Human Capital Development, and Job Creation, with a goal of achieving our Middle-Income Aspiration by 2039.**

41. I am also pleased **to officially launch the District Engagement on the Medium-Term National Development 2024-2030 in Moyamba District.**

42. Thank you for your attention.