



ALL PEOPLES CONGRESS (APC)
MOTTO: ACTION PROGRESS COMMITMENT

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APC REITERATES ITS CONCERNS TO PRESIDENT JULIUS MAADA BIO

On the invitation of His Excellency, the President Julius Maada Bio, the leaders of the seventeen (17) registered political parties met with the President at State House on the 1st March 2019. We wish to make it known to our members and the citizenry of Sierra Leone that the APC only attended out of respect for the Presidency. The APC would have ordinarily not attended because the President and his Government have so far not shown any respect for our revered constitution, rule of law, separation of powers and even the basic tenets of democracy and good governance. Members of our Party at all levels have continued to suffer incessant harassment, intimidation and brutalization in the hands of the SLPP Government and its agents.

The Leadership of the Party was appalled to observe that this long overdue meeting did not address any of the concerns of the APC but rather focused on trivial issues like the provision of stipend to political parties; reduction of nomination fees for candidates in the Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Council elections and the need for inclusivity in the Governance of the state. The APC wishes to make it known that it has no interest in serving in the SLPP Government and made this abundantly clear to the President.

While welcoming the idea of meeting with all registered political parties, the APC drew attention of the President to the fact that unity and social cohesion can never be achieved when members of the opposition, including its Leader and Chairman, are not accorded the dignity and respect they so deserve. The way in which the Leader and Chairman of the APC was almost refused entry back into Sierra Leone after a short visit abroad was very unfortunate. Such approval was only granted after a protracted engagement with the police.

The citizenry of this country will be appalled to note that former President Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma has been repeatedly denied the courtesies and protocols normally accorded former Heads of State at the Lungi International Airport. Former President Koroma has

been constrained to use his car as his lounge whenever he wishes to travel abroad through the Lungi International Airport. He has been repeatedly refused access to the Presidential Lounge. This is unprecedented in the recent political history of our country.

The APC Deputy Chairman and National Secretary General informed the meeting that the Constitution of this country has been consistently violated as evidenced in:

1. The way in which the Speaker of Parliament was imposed on the majority party in Parliament;
2. The Commissions of Inquiry which were set up in clear violation of Section 150 of the Constitution of Sierra Leone;
3. The usurpation of the powers of Parliament by issuing Executive Orders that contravene relevant provisions of the constitution.
4. The appointment of a new NEC commissioner (South) in breach of Section 32 of the constitution and forwarding his name for approval to parliament without consultation with political parties.

The independence of the Judiciary has regrettably been compromised repeatedly:

1. The failure of the Chief Justice to allow the petitions against the election of President Julius Maada Bio to be expeditiously handled in court.
2. The failure of the Chief Justice to appropriately respond to the filing by the APC Party on behalf of the Persons of Interest as represented by Dr. Samura Kamara and Mr. Paolo Conteh and even the Bar Association requesting the Supreme Court to interpret relevant provisions of the constitution and to determine whether due process has been followed in the ongoing Commissions of Inquiry.
3. The failure of the Chief Justice to even listen to the advice from his Law Officers Department who admonished him to recuse himself from the matter because he cannot be a Judge in his own course.
4. The unfortunate way in which the Chief Justice and the Attorney General demonstrated blind partisan loyalty in the statements they delivered at the launching of the Commissions of Inquiry.

The APC Party and its members have been brutalized, raped and even killed on various occasions all over the country:

1. The killings in Mile 91, Lumley here in Freetown and more recently in Tonko Limba are some examples.
2. The cases of rape of our members from Kailahun and other parts of this country.
3. Judiciary and Police – The incidents of murder, arson, harassment and victimization by the police and SLPP supporters of APC supporters. Cases filed in court or reported have not been listed by the Chief Justice. The APC admonishes the Chief Justice to list and hear the 32 petition cases of election malpractices already filed in court against some SLPP MPs.

Our Parliament has been reduced to a laughing stock in the sub region and beyond:

1. The way in which the Minority imposed a Speaker on the majority Party in Parliament is unprecedented.
2. The attempt by the Speaker and the Leader of Government business in Parliament to illegally pass bills into law without following due process as was recently exemplified in the attempt to pass the legislative instrument against Rape.

The massive sackings of young promising Sierra Leoneans across the board and their replacement by SLPP Party loyalists without recourse to due process is unprecedented in the history of Sierra Leone and sets a very dangerous precedence.

The APC Party also wishes to draw the attention of our citizenry and development partners to the undue harassment and intimidation meted out to members of the security forces (Police and military) that served under the previous constitutionally elected government of former President Koroma. The APC wishes it to be known that security forces across all sectors are under sacred oath to serve the state and defend the constitution at all times. Such service should therefore not be used as a justification for undue harassment, intimidation and even court martial. The families of many of these gallant officers have now been devastated and torn apart. This is an unfortunate development that must be stopped immediately.

The APC Party wishes to make it known that it will uphold and defend the constitution of this country at all times. It will not allow the SLPP led Government to continue to abuse the constitution; compromise the independence of the judiciary and flout the standing Orders of Parliament with impunity.

We therefore call on President Julius Maada Bio to take immediate steps to address these concerns in order to ensure peace and stability in our beloved country.

Long live the APC Party.
Long live Sierra Leone.

Signed

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Amb. Dr. Alhaji Osman Foday Yansaneh
National Secretary General - All Peoples Congress Party