



## **Office of HE Ernest Bai Koroma, Former President of Sierra Leone 2007-2018**

30<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

### **Preliminary Statement On The Release Of The Reports of The Commissions of Inquiry, The White Paper And Other Hostile Government Actions**

I have learned with utter disappointment about some of the defamatory contents of the Reports of the Commissions of Inquiry and the White Paper thereto pertaining to some of the activities I undertook while exercising my official functions as President of the Republic of Sierra Leone. I have also noted with utter dismay the Government's hostility against me and some officials who served in my administration.

While it is apparent that the allegations against me are without merit and are a politically motivated charade calculated to impugn my hard-earned reputation, I further believe that the government's relentless heckling around me has reached undue and unacceptable levels that amount to political harassment.

For ten years, I served my country diligently, fairly and with honour and integrity. My government was widely recognised for its robust fight against corruption, for consolidating peace, rebuilding the country's battered infrastructure, for improving the lives of our people in many ways and for the peaceful, smooth democratic transition I superintended.

It is unfortunate, therefore, that the government has chosen this route to unduly tarnish my reputation because of politics. Such ridiculous political witch hunt does not only scare good and well-meaning citizens from getting involved in governance; it also has the propensity of undermining peaceful democratic transitions on the continent as current leaders following these unfortunate events in Sierra Leone might find it difficult to readily hand over power, especially to opposition political parties.

On my part, whilst I will always support the fight against corruption and the quest for accountability in public office, I will muster all available legitimate and democratic means to robustly defend my reputation which is being tarnished so mindlessly. In that vein, I will once again defer to my lawyers to look into the Reports, the White Paper and the series of maligning actions being instituted against me; to advise on my next course of action.

Ernest Bai Koroma



Former President of Sierra Leone.