



PEOPLE POWER MOVEMENT

SIERRA LEONE

PEOPLE POWER MOVEMENT SIERRA LEONE CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO REFRAIN FROM INCREASING COST OF FUEL PRODUCTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE– 25th JUNE 2021

The attention of People Power Movement Sierra Leone (PPM SL) has been drawn to the Petroleum Regulatory Agency's (PRA) Management Press Release of 7th June 2021, making a case for a rise in prices of fuel. It stated that fuel price was not increased between May-December 2020 and January-May 2021, a decision which the agency noted amounted to a significant impact. The release noted further that, in this month of June 2021, the prevailing adjusted market price of fuel products is Le9,500 but that steps have been taken by PRA, Ministry of Finance (MoF, Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI) and the marketing companies to retain the cost of petroleum products at Le8,500. The Movement notes this as a great and brave move by the Government and petroleum stakeholders and their Associates. The move has helped citizens during these challenging times of the COVID-19 Pandemic and its attending consequences such as hike in the prices of especially food and non-food items in the country.

The Movement is not insensitive to the strides taken so far by the Government in the areas of education, health, and agriculture. Any increase in fuel price could slow down the progress being made in these sectors and will have the potential for social and economic instability. We remind the Government that any increase in the price of fuel products will deepen poverty, particularly among the rural poor. If we are not to **leave no one behind**, one of the principles of the Sustainable Development Goals, then acting otherwise is not an option.

Many Sierra Leoneans can barely feed on 1 meal a day. The World Food Programme Report on the 'State of Food Security in Sierra Leone 2020: Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis May 2021,' (<https://wfp.org/stories/video-we-are-suffering-food-price-rises>) produced in partnership with the Government of Sierra Leone noted that over 4.7 million people are food insecure, of which over 900,000 are severely food insecure and over 3,700,000 are moderately food insecure. Evelyn Fey's video report of 4th June, 2021, captioned 'We are suffering' food prices rises leaves people in Sierra Leone hungry' (<https://wfp.org/stories/video-we-are-suffering-food-price-rises>) provides further support.



PEOPLE POWER MOVEMENT

SIERRA LEONE

We join other civil society organizations to call on the Government to ensure that the prices of fuel products remain at the existing price and to restrain the Petroleum Regulatory Agency and its Associates from increasing the price even after the subsequent monthly review. We call on our listening government: to continue to augment the gap in fuel increase on behalf of citizens; make the national budget more pro-poor sensitive, and resist the International Monetary Fund (IMF) austerity measures amidst COVID-19 pandemic.

PPM-SL is a Movement of citizens and over 50 national Non-Governmental Organizations that uses people power (nonviolent) approaches to promote human rights, strengthen good governance and fight corruption at all levels. We mobilize citizens' actions for change

Thank you

Signed. PPM SL Members:

Action Aid Sierra Leone (AASL)

Center for the Coordination of Youth Activities (CCYA)

Community Action for Human Security

Deseret Women

Direct Response Development Organization

Foundation for Rural and Urban Transformation (FoRUT)

Network Movement for Democracy and Human Right

National Youth Awareness Forum

Network Movement for Youth & Child Welfare Sierra Leone

Movement Towards Peace and Development Agency Sierra Leone (MoPADA-SL)

Movement for Resettlement and Rural Development (MoRRD)

Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD)



PEOPLE POWER MOVEMENT SIERRA LEONE

Pikin-To-Pikin Movement

Social Linkages for Youth Development and Child Link (SLYDCL)

Talented Young People Everywhere (TYPE-SL)

WASH-NET/YPPD

Contact:

The National Chairman: +232 76 647 970

The Head of Secretariat: +232 78 544 125

The Deputy National Chairperson: +232 76 651 755

