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PRESS STATEMENT

THE ALL POLITICAL PARTIES ASSOCIATION (APPA-SL) IS HEREBY ENCOURAGING THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND CALL ON ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO SUPPORT THE 2021 MID-TERM POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

The All Political Parties Association (APPA-SL) has been following statistics Sierra Leone with keen interest since His Excellency the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone made the proclamation for statistics Sierra Leone to conduct a mid-term census.

APPA-SL wants to inform the general public that Statistics Sierra Leone Acts of 2002 clearly stated that; a census proclaimed by the President through a legal instrument approved by Parliament to be conducted at any time, mid-term or not, is a legal national activity.

APPA-SL believes in the **proclamation** (statement) which clearly spelt out the overall objectives as follows;

- a. To correct the anomalies of the 2015 Population and Housing Census;
- b. To provide credible and reliable data that will help Sierra Leone plan, implement, and monitor development interventions by the Government of Sierra Leone and our development partners in respect of the current Medium-Term National Development Plan 2019-2023 and the follow up national Plan;
- c. To prepare Sierra Leone for the next Population and Housing Census.

APPA-SL also believes that, for a country like Sierra Leone that is embarking on fundamental structural changes, the availability of credible up-to-date information is crucial for effective implementation of plans and programmes at all levels.

This first digital Mid-Term Census will fully capacitate and allow Statistics Sierra Leone to use tablets for the next census and will ensure the production of timely Census Reports.

The 2021 Mid-Term Census will allow Sierra Leone to update data collected during the 2015 Census, generate proper coding of localities in the country, update Statistics Sierra Leone cartographic databases, set baselines and capture progress of specific national goals.

In this case, it will directly address issues of the Medium-Term National Development Plan 2019-2023 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The World Bank, UNFPA, UNECA and several other partners that are supporting Government of Sierra Leone and working with Statistics Sierra Leone to ensure high quality and credible data will be generated by the census that will contribute to the effective assessment of the national development goals of the country.

APPA-SL strongly believes that the first digital 2021 Mid-Term Census is very important and timely and therefore calls on members of all other Political Parties to do likewise, as low or non-participation of the people in specific areas of the country will lead to low population figures in those areas which will have adverse effects on the development trajectory of those areas.

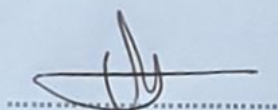
Consequently APPA-SL encourages its constituent Political Parties and the general public to fully participate in the census process and assures the general public that the entire process will be fully monitored by APPA-SL to ensure the entire process is credible.

APPA-SL hereby solicits the continued cooperation of the general public to allow Statistics Sierra Leone fieldworkers to move around the country and carry out their work unhindered as enshrined in Section 8 of the Census Act of 2002.

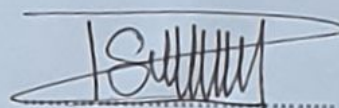
Long Live APPA-SL!

Long Live Democracy!

God Bless Sierra Leone!



Prince Coker
Chairman



Ibrahim .S .Sesay
Secretary General