



UNITY PARTY

Stronger Together

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Open letter to the President

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Unity Party, I wish to state quite openly that we do not and will not support this mid-term census. Our reasons are as follows: based on your **8 key benefits** of the 1st electronic census.

The timing, 2022 is now upon us the year of local council elections, in short, it's the start of campaign season that leads into the 2023 general elections. It may be used for gerrymandering.

The cost, with the huge cost of the pending local and general elections how fiscally responsible is your government to justify pouring millions of dollars on a $\frac{3}{4}$ census (mid-term was in 2020). Only for the entire process to be repeated in 36 months. Regardless of who donated, granted, or loaned us the money. Could it not be more responsibly spent?

The development, neither you nor your cabinet need the exact numbers of Sierra Leoneans at the tail end of your term in office for you to make effective development plans. A plan should have been in place even before your inauguration.

You also do not need a $\frac{3}{4}$ term census to do a 'comprehensive identification of vulnerable persons. Sir you drive pass them on the way to and from your office begging for their daily bread around the cotton tree. Stop, wind your window down and talk to them, you will know who they are.

The impact of covid, again you do not need a $\frac{3}{4}$ term census to tell you this. Salone was spared from the wrath of covid by the favor of God/Allah and not by any measures taken by your government that allowed thousands of donated doses of the Covid and Ebola vaccines to expire.

The evaluation of national progress, Sir the children of Kono spoke for all of us, I need not elaborate.

The maternal and childhood Mortality, again sir no need for a $\frac{3}{4}$ term census, incentivize, pay, monitor, promote, the health workers. Equip, clean, monitor and maintain all health facilities.

Rehearsal, can Sierra Leone afford to spend millions of dollars to have a practice census in readiness for 2025? Considering just our weak and inefficient our institutions are, it would be wise to use the next 36 months to strengthen them while a well-planned and executed 10-year census is done.


Femi Claudius -Cole.

Chairperson Unity Party 6/12/2021