



THE SIERRA LEONE DIASPORA UNITY CAMPAIGN (SLDUC)

Our Ref: Diaspora Unity Campaign

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PRESS RELEASE FROM

The Sierra Leone Diaspora Unity Campaign (SLDUC); is a global union of Concerned Sierra Leoneans and Friends of Sierra Leone both at home and around the world. SLDUC is worried over several events and decisions taken by the government of Sierra Leone on issues of serious concern ranging from National Security, police brutality, polarized justice system, suppression of freedom of expression, the absence of national cohesion, and peace.

SLDUC observed escalating tension since the elections of 2018, that ushered in the current Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) led administration of President Julius Maada Bio. The highlighted issues above continue to affect the peaceful management of national cohesion and security of our fellow citizens in the country. As a result, we hereby draw the attention of friends of Sierra Leone, development partners and diplomatic community, to be aware of the unbearable happenings, and therefore, requesting your support in treating this matter with all seriousness it deserves.

As we recently witnessed the event of a government Whitepaper based on recommendations of a Presidential handpicked committee which vows to push these recommendations without consultation with other political parties and stakeholders in the country. This is inconsistent with our political culture and the political history of our country more especially, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Sierra Leone. If the current administration is suggesting that the crucial parliamentary and presidential elections that will be held next year would be held based on a 50+1 vote in a nonpartisan manner that favours the current President and his party, it is unacceptable and would therefore serve as a recipe for serious chaos before, during and after such process. Therefore, SLDUC is calling on our moral guarantors i.e., the European Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the United Kingdom, the United States, and the United Nations to intervene or else, such thought would be met with the toughest resistance by the citizens of Sierra Leone.

Furthermore, SLDUC believe, the proportional representation system suggested by this administration is inconsistent with our legal framework, political tradition, and history of our body politics. Proportional representative system functions well when there is an electorate that has a unitary social thinking that manifest a socio-tropic, rather than egoistic voting mentality. In a system where voters, vote for reasons of national and structural transformation legitimacy of the candidate or political party not on what individual voters stands to gain. For a society like Sierra Leone where voting is more of partisan and ethnic belief, such a system can become a recipe for national confusion, incoherence, and disaster at every level of the electoral process. These overlaps of authority from several candidates to assert their legislative power and legitimacy, limits participation as well as strengthen & centralize power to political parties and not individual voters. Therefore, our organization believes that the present mentality of political party polarization will give more powers to political parties thereby and promoting conflict.

Given the above, SLDUC is calling on all citizens of Sierra Leone, including Members of Parliament to whole-heartedly reject the January 2022 recommendations by the "Government Whitepaper" and instead, insist on full adherence and tabling the recommendations of the Justice Cowan led Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) document in parliament for

Other Executive Members: Alfred Sesay, Theophilus Morrison, Raffick B. Koroma, Mohamed B. Jamboria, Mohamed A Warisay, Aiah A.

Tab Barbah, Gombie Musa-Tonyayia, Ibrahim S. Koroma, Patrick Foyoh.



END!

Dated this Monday, 31 day of January, 2022.

Signed:

Rachael Bangura-Davies – Chairperson

AL- Aziz Turay – Secretary

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