

**KEYNOTE STATEMENT BY  
THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF  
THE SIERRA LEONE PEOPLE'S PARTY (SLPP)**

**SIR JIMMY BATILO SONGA**



**AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF  
ELECTED EXECUTIVES OF THE SLPP NORTH  
AMERICA CHAPTER  
SEPTEMBER 2025**

**Mr Chairman**

**Executive Members**

**Chairman and Members of the Council of Elders**

**Friends of the Sierra Leone People's Party**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Good Evening**

**ONE COUNTRY. ONE PEOPLE. ONE PEOPLE.  
ONE COUNTRY. SLPP.**

1. What a joy it is to stand with you tonight — not only to inaugurate a new executive but also to celebrate the bond that unites us: **our solidarity, our shared commitment, and our love for the Sierra Leone People's Party and the Land That We Love, Sierra Leone.**
2. At the heart of our great party lies a simple but powerful truth: **One Country, One People.** That truth reminds us that no matter where we are — whether in Freetown, Bo, Kenema, Kono, Kailahun, Kambia, Makeni, Pujehun, Port Loko, or here in the United States — we are one family. And when we come together as a family, our strength multiplies.

3. Tonight is more than just a ceremony. Occasions like this serve as renewals of our commitment. They remind us that **leadership within the SLPP is not about holding positions; it is about serving with humility, organising with discipline, and mobilising with purpose.**
4. To our **Newly Elected Executive, this is your opportunity.** Your role is to connect people, ensuring that every member feels heard and valued. Work to strengthen this region as a vital pillar of the party. **You are not here to hold titles; you are here to support and uplift the members.**
5. Work closely with one another and work hand in hand with the National Executive. Our Party is strongest when we pull in the same direction. Disunity weakens us. Collaboration empowers us. Your success here in North America must always be linked to the collective success of the SLPP at home and abroad.

6. I would like to extend special recognition to **Mr Desmond Pessima**, the **Chairman of SLPP North America**, for his exceptional leadership. He and his executive team have worked tirelessly to strengthen this region , making it a credible and visible part of our global SLPP family. Your efforts reflect the spirit I observed in the UK and Ireland region — diaspora communities rising to uphold the founding values and principles of our great SLPP Party, demonstrating their indispensability to the party's future.
7. **Dear Brothers and Sisters**, we must recognise that we stand on a proud legacy. From **Sir Milton Margai**, who led Sierra Leone to independence, to each generation of SLPP leaders, we have continued to carry the torch of democracy, justice, and development. Today, under the leadership of **His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio**, that flame is burning brighter than ever.
8. Think of the millions of children now learning under ***Free Quality School Education***. Think of the advances in ***governance, healthcare, technology***,

**women's empowerment, and infrastructure.** These are not small steps — they are **bold strides that reflect the SLPP's vision for Sierra Leone's future.**

9. **Our work is not yet complete.** We look towards 2028 and beyond. Victory will not happen by chance; it will require **unity, discipline, and solidarity.** In this effort, **the diaspora is crucial.** Whether in the UK, Ireland, or North America, our brothers and sisters abroad are our bridge-builders. They mobilise resources, defend our achievements, and serve as ambassadors for Sierra Leone's progress.
10. **To secure another victory in 2028,** we must **set aside egos, factions, and divided loyalties.** Every member's loyalty must be with **President Bio and the Sierra Leone People's Party.** No individual is bigger than the party, and no one is more important than our shared mission. Together, by serving diligently and selflessly, we will achieve another victory.
11. Let this inauguration be more than just a formality. Let it serve as a pledge to unite and ensure that **the SLPP**

remains the hope and home for Sierra Leoneans everywhere.

12. **United, we cannot be defeated. Divided, we cannot win.** The future is ours to shape. Let us move forward together, proudly carrying **the banner of the Sierra Leone People's Party: One Country, One People.**

13. Thank you. May God bless the **SLPP**, may God bless **President Julius Maada Wonie Bio** and may God bless **Sierra Leone.**