

POSITION PAPER ON THE TOLLGATE FROM CITIZENS & 200 CSO'S ACROSS THE COUNTRY

14th March, 2024

To: Hon Speaker Republic of Sierra Leone

Chairman Parliamentary Committee on works

From: Citizens & 200 CSOs across the country

Subject: Citizens say No to any increment but to maintain the old price and call for an independent investigation into the sticky issues that boarder and concern the technical, financial and legal areas of the contract which are subject to review as prescribed in Article 22.15 of the contract.

Date: 13/03/2023

Firstly, CSOs and Sierra Leoneans at home and abroad wish to thank the Hon. Speaker and the Parliamentary Committee on works and by extension the entire Parliament for putting their people's interest central and to particularly putting a stop to the entire proposed increment. We don't need to overemphasize the devastating impact of the increment on the livelihood of citizens. It will be unbearable, and it will likely lead to chaos as the increment is seen as a ticking time bomb for chaos. The only glimmer of hope to rescue the citizen now is the Parliament.

Since we left the Parliament building after the last consultative meeting at the committee room, we have crisscrossed the 16 political districts to hold consultations with Ordinary Citizens, CSOs across the 16 political districts. We have the pleasure to summarize their voices into four strong positions as follows:

1. The citizens and the CSOs say no to any increment and urge the old fees to remain until a thorough investigation is done.

2. Lack of transparency and accountability:

From the last Parliamentary engagement Chaired by our esteemed Hon. Speaker Dr. Abass Chernoh Bundu, it came out clear that this whole contract is shrouded in Secrecy and racketeering scheme for the wrong reasons with no accountability and transparency practices, even the lead Government agency and expert who happens to be the Concessionaire (SLRA) was saying they don't have access to the raw data and at the same time, the report of the "Concessioner (CRSG), does not make clear sense, in as much as it is not comprehensive". For us as CSOs, we do not need much from the SLRA (Concessionaire) to say, it is only to legitimize and validate the finding from the research done by our lead Coalition member Native Consortium and Research Center that the whole contract lacks transparency and accountability on the part of the Concessioner (CRSG) and the deliberate complicit and negligence on the part Concessionaire is because of the interference of corrupt politicians on the past and present Governments, particularly in the way how the current works Minister has mislead the public to protect the CRSG begs so many questions. CSOs are calling for an immediate independent investigation, for an independent Engineers report, and independent Auditors and to legally scrutinize the breaches between the two parties. This investigation should touch on the sticky issues around legal, technical, and financial areas on the contract.

3. The CRSG should unconditionally vacate all blockades they have created on and around the 3 alternative routes areas, as it does not just posed a national security threats, but also a breach of contract and an egregious assault on the human rights and dignity of Sierra Leoneans, as these are the expectations of the people .

Citizens demand for a review of the entire contract agreement between the CRSG and the Government of Sierra Leone as prescribed in Article 22.15 of the agreement, as it was also promised by HE President Maada Bio in his 2018 campaign manifesto.

5. To meet international standards and cushion economic burden on the people, we strongly demand the elimination of 1 tollgate.

We won't conclude this position paper without expressing our deepest condolences to the President and the entire Bio family as they lay the late sister of the President to rest over the 16th March. May her soul rest in perfect peace.

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Signed:

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ENDORSED BY THE FOLLOWING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS:

1. Sierra Leone Labour Congress
2. Community Action for Human Security (CAHSEC)
3. Amnesty International – Sierra Leone
4. Deseret Women SL
5. IHRC Africa Region HQ/SL Rep
6. Women's Forum for Human Rights and Democracy
7. Democracy And Development Associates-Sierra Leone (DADA-SL)
8. Advocacy Network for Social Justice
9. Network Support for Peace Education
10. Sabula Women Association
11. Women and Children Advocacy Network
12. Campaign for Child & Youth Empowerment
13. Legloma Youth 4 Development
14. Disable Women's Action Group
15. Advocacy for Justice & Empowerment
16. Disability Inclusion Matters
17. Action for Children & Youth Development
18. Youth Partnership for Peace and Development - Pujehun
19. Parents Without Partners
20. Democracy & Dev. Associates-Sierra Leone
21. Civil Society Movement
22. Pekin To Pekin Movement
23. Tamaraneh Women's Development Association
24. Network Movement for Justice and Development
25. Justice for Human Rights
26. Child Rights Advocacy Organisation
27. Tawopaneh Cooperative Association
28. Attire Base Associations
29. Civil Society Movement (east)
30. Movement for the Remobilisation of Democracy
31. One Heart Sierra Leone
32. Movement for Resettlement and Rural Development
33. Self Help and Development Everywhere
34. Women Yearning for Equal Right
35. Human Rights Defenders Network
38. Centre for Accountability and the Rule of Law(CARL-SL)
39. Kambia Trade Fair and Marathon Committee
40. 50/50 Group
41. Amazonian Initiative Movement
42. Action for Youth and Children's Network
43. Touch the Sky Foundation
44. Network for Rural Development
45. Community Action for the Welfare of Children
46. Foundation of Youth Empowerment and Advocacy
47. Sierra Leone Traders Union
48. Sierra Leone Teachers Union
49. Health for All Coalition
50. Radio Kolenten FM 92.4
51. Association for the Wellbeing Community & Development
52. Welfare Society for the Disabled
53. Facilitating and organizing Communities to Unite for Sus. Dev't
54. Women In Crisis Movement
55. Democracy and Development Associates –Sierra Leone
56. Bike Riders Union
57. Hope Centre for the Vulnerable
58. Partners In Education and Development
59. United for the Protection of Human Rights
60. Christ Ambassadors for Academic Excellence
61. Community Action for Sustainable Growth
62. Kambia District Development and Rehabilitation Organization
63. Drivers Union - District
64. Women Network
65. Network Advocacy for Youth Empowerment
66. Kambia District Women's Unite
67. Advocacy Movement Network
68. Timap for Women Empowerment
69. Kambia Women in Governance Network
70. Fambul Initiative Network
71. Empowering Youth Leadership and Development Initiative
72. Kambia District Youth Council
73. Education for All
74. Volunteers Involving
76. Centre for Democracy and Human Rights
77. YEDA Sierra Leone
78. Women's Forum Network
79. Stop It Sierra Leone
80. Kambia District Federation of Ataya Bases
81. Women Community Solidarity Group Sierra Leone
82. Girls Education Movement in Sierra Leone
83. Hearts of Sierra Leone
84. Radio Kaliza FM 89.2
85. Mawopnet Peace Radio FM 88.4
86. Kambia Budget Tracking Advocacy Network
87. Samu Youth Agro Development Association
88. GOAL Sierra Leone - Bo
89. Petty Traders Union
90. Civil Society Movement (East)
91. Movement for the Remobilization for Democracy
92. One Heart Sierra Leone
93. 4. Movement for Resettlement and Rural Development
94. 5. Kenema District Human Rights Committee
95. CARITAS - Kenema
96. Campaign for Good Governance - Kenema
97. Gbotima Women's Development Association
98. 9. Education Across Borders Sierra Leone
99. Coalition for Community Transformation and Development
100. Global Village Network
101. Women's Empowerment Association for Progress
102. Community Human Rights Defenders
103. Defence for Children International
104. Transparency International
105. Foundation for Democracy Development and Human Rights
106. Amnesty Women's Group
107. Forum On Extractives Human Rights and Development
108. Passenger Welfare
109. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Network

- 36. Young Women's Knowledge and Leadership Institute
- 37. Native Consortium and Research Center

- Organizations Network
- 75. Bambara Town Women's Organization

- 110. Initiatives for Community Development – Bonthe

- 111. Community Mobilization Advocacy Network.
- 112. Road Safety Watch
- 113. Union For The Reformation And Development Of Youth Sierra Leone.
- 114. Human Right Defenders Network SL
- 115. Civil Society Advocacy Network on Climate Change Sierra Leone
- 116. Bus and Poda poda owners Association.
- 117. Indigenous Transport owner Association
- 118. Advocacy For the Voiceless Sierra Leoneans
- 119. Passenger Welfare Association.
- 120. Citizens Rights Network Sierra Leone
- 121. CASDER - SL
- 122.** Metal Watch Advocacy Network
- 123. Forum for Child Welfare
- 124. Ethnic Youth Development Organization.
- 125. Bianguay Foundation SL.
- 126. Eco Farm and Logistic.
- 127. Agrienviron Group.
- 128. Care for the Needy SL.
- 129. KaWDA.
- 130. Hope for the Children's Foundation
- 131. Community Advocacy Network
- 132. Justice for Human Right
- 133. Forum for Financial and Economic Inclusion
- 134. Rimdin Farmers Association
- 135. Tamaraneh cooperative Association
- 136. Wan Man Show Interlect(WMSI)
- 137. Tamemsu Social Club
- 138. Together as One Attire Base Club
- 139. Heavy Weight Social Club
- 140. Movement of Faith to save Humanity.
- 141. Lemaniam Botkidee Fishing Organisation
- 142. An eye for an Eye Movement Group
- 143. Lomatamu Attire Base Social Club
- 144. Women in Human rights and Peacebuilding Association
- 145. Petty Traders Hawkers Association
- 146. United famers Association
- 147. Charcoal Producers Association
- 148. Movement of Democracy and Good Governance
- 149. Human Rights and Development Promoters
- 150. Movement for the Eradication of Malaria
- 151. Citizens Transformation on Good Governance
- 152. Poor Women's Organisation
- 153. Voice of the Voiceless
- 154. Voice of the Farmers Advocacy Network
- 155. Global Youth Network
- 156. Women in Crisis
- 157. Democracy & Development Association
- 158. Area Youths Development Organisation
- 159. Fish Mongers Unite Association

160. Tawopaneh Gardeners Association
161. Indigenous Farmers Cooperative Society
162. Destiny Multipurpose Cooperative Society
163. Katanya Women's development Association
164. National Movement for Emancipation and Progress
165. AWARA
166. Kunya Farmers Association
167. PIRSUD-SL
168. Movement for the Restoration of Democracy and Good Governance.
169. Chance Sierra Leone
170. Kawuyena Women's Rights Advocacy Group
171. Amuloma Development Network
172. Environmental Youth Empowerment Services Sierra Leone
- 173 Petty Traders Association
- 174 Keke Riders Union

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