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20th AUGUST 2019

PRESS RELEASE

MEMORANDUM ON PLEDGE MADE ON BEHALF OF ALL MPs

President Julius Maada Bio launched his Government's free Quality Education Project at the Miatta Conference Hall on 20th August 2018. I was invited to attend in my capacity as Speaker of Parliament.

In the course of the programme for the occasion, impromptu invitations were extended to individuals and corporations to make public pledges for this historic, noble and laudable national aspiration. This is a project that has as its cardinal objectives, first, to give all the citizens of Sierra Leone equal rights and adequate opportunities to realize their fullest potential through free compulsory and basic quality education at primary and secondary school levels; and, second, to eradicate the scourge of illiteracy from our citizenry as declared in Section 9 of the Fundamental Principles of State Policy enshrined in Chapter II of the Constitution of Sierra Leone 1991. I was among those whom the Chairman of the occasion invited to make a pledge on my personal behalf and on behalf of Parliament.

Accordingly I announced, on behalf of my humble self and every Member of Parliament, a pledge of one month's salary to be spread over a period of 12 months.

I was of course aware that the impromptu nature of the invitation had not afforded me the opportunity to consult or engage any Member of Parliament before making the pledge on their behalf. However, strongly espousing the nobility and sanctity of

education as a fundamental pillar of national development, I believed in the circumstances it was the right thing for me to do on behalf of all the Members of Parliament. My decision was also informed by the fact that there is hardly a constituency in the country that will not benefit from the new Free Quality Education launched by the President and of which every Member of Parliament would be proud to be a part.

I sincerely hope I have done justice to every Member of Parliament and that you will feel able to endorse the pledge I made on your behalf. However, in the event that you disapprove of my action, please feel free to opt out of the pledge I have made and to inform the Clerk of Parliament accordingly.

Rt. Hon. Dr. Abass Chernor Bundu

Speaker of Parliament

31st August 2018

Cc. The Clerk of Parliament