

# Network Movement For Democracy & Human Rights

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## PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **A CLERION CALL ON THE GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE AND ITS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS TO REVISIT THEIR AGREEMENT ON THE TOLL ROAD.**

The Network Movement for Democracy and Human Rights (NMDHR) is calling on the Government of Sierra Leone and its development Partners to revisit the agreement binding the expansion of the Freetown Masiaka highway viz a viz the toll road, and to provide a suitable alternative route for the Citizens of Sierra Leone. Apparently, using toll road around the world is optional, and a right to choose which road to use. In the interest of the people, it is incumbent on the Government to provide an alternative route leading to and from Freetown. NMDHR would like to draw the attention of the Government of Sierra Leone to Article 18. (1) Of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone which emphasizes on the protection of freedom of movement for the people of this Country. Therefore Government should provide opportunity for Citizens to move freely without restriction

**18. (1) Says “No person shall be deprived of his freedom of protection of movement, and for the purpose of this section the said freedom means the rights to move freely throughout Sierra Leone, the rights to reside in any part of Sierra Leone, the right to enter or leave Sierra Leone...”**

Also NMDHR wants to encourage the Government and its development Partners on democratic and good governance issues which emphasises People’s participation in decision making processes and the views of ordinary Sierra Leoneans must be heard,

As a National Non-Governmental Human Rights Organization that is geared towards promoting human rights and democratic governance in Sierra Leone, NMDHR is pleased to commend the Government of Sierra Leone and the China Rail Way Seventh Group (CRSG) for the construction of the first ever 62 km toll road in Sierra Leone which serves as a viable opportunity to promote economic growth in Sierra Leone.

For more information, please contact the Mr Abdul Karim Habib Ag. National coordinator on +23276410137/77543865 and Mr Nabieu Kamara Ag. Programs Manager on +23276202104/30456641.

While commending the Government and its development Partners, NMDHR is drawing the Government attention to section 18 (1) of the 1991 Constitution to avoid violation of human rights, economic freedom and conflicts.

Freetown and its largely Urban environs homes to about half of Sierra Leone's 7 million population. Most of the locally produced foodstuff consumed in the Urban areas come from the Rural Communities apparently using the only road (toll road) linking the capital to the rest of the country.

As a brief background, the Network Movement for Democracy and Human Rights (NMDHR) is a legally registered Non-profit and non-governmental human rights organization in Sierra Leone. NMDHR strategic focus is promoting human rights and good governance in Sierra Leone.

End of Press Release

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