



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ABUJA

PRESS STATEMENT

NO: MFA/PR/2026/224

NIGERIA FACILITATES SAFE, ORDERLY AND DIGNIFIED RETURN OF FORMER PRESIDENT ERNEST BAI KOROMA TO SIERRA LEONE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to inform that on the instruction of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Amb. Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu, accompanied former President **Ernest Bai Koroma** of Sierra Leone on his safe, orderly and dignified return home to Sierra Leone on Sunday, 6 September 2026.

Former President Koroma's relocation to Nigeria in January 2024 was a consequence of sustained regional diplomatic interventions and confidence-building efforts undertaken by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) under the chairmanship of His Excellency President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

While in Nigeria, the former President was accorded all privileges befitting his status as a former Head of State, enabling him to fully engage in the diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving all outstanding issues in a manner consistent with peace, national cohesion and democratic stability in Sierra Leone. With meaningful progress made, the Government of

Nigeria considered it had sufficient basis for his safe and dignified return to his country.

Nigeria acknowledges and commends the constructive and sustained engagement of relevant stakeholders, including the ECOWAS, the Government of Sierra Leone and other well-meaning actors, in facilitating the conditions necessary for the return of President Koroma home.

In particular, the Government of Nigeria commends and appreciates President Julius Maado Bio, former President Ernest Bai Koroma and the good people of Sierra Leone for their goodwill, cooperation and commitment in reaching this understanding and facilitating the dignified return.

Nigeria is confident that this development will foster national reconciliation, advance stability and consolidate democratic peace in Sierra Leone. Nigeria remains committed to promoting regional harmony, peace, stability, constitutional order and development in the West Africa sub-region.

Signed:

**Oluwafemi Adeniyi
Spokesperson
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja
Sunday, 06 September 2026**