

Statement on the Constitutional Reform Process

By Dr Ibrahim Bangura.

I am closely monitoring the ongoing constitutional reform process in Sierra Leone. A national constitution should be drafted in good faith. It should serve the interests of every citizen. It should serve as a blueprint for solving societal problems and anticipating future challenges, especially given our country's history. To ensure a stable future, this reform should be inclusive, devoid of political manoeuvres, and adopt a conflict resolution approach, focusing on the essential pillars of:

Genuine Democracy - How can we advance the true meaning of separation of powers and establish an executive that can be held accountable by other branches of government?

Accountable Governance - What mechanisms are necessary to protect the independence of public institutions, ensuring they stay responsive to citizens rather than being controlled by political interests?

Peace and Stability - How can we dismantle structures of ethno-regional dominance to promote an inclusive national identity, social cohesion, and equitable, sustainable development?

The current constitutional reform process should address these issues head-on. They are the keys to resolving the cycles of poverty, underdevelopment and corruption that have threatened the peace, security and stability of our country in recent years.

A Call for Party Unity on the Review Process

While I hold the firm view on the current process, I remain committed to the principle of party leadership on matters of national importance. As an aspirant for the Flagbearer of the All Peoples Congress (APC), I have consistently maintained that we should support the party in developing a unified and robust strategy. Our goal should be to ensure that any

reform truly reflects the democratic aspirations of the Sierra Leonean people, which the APC has delivered in recent times.

In support of this mission, I have decided to collaborate directly with the party by providing a comprehensive position paper that will contribute to the APC's submission to the ongoing pre-legislative process.

I call on my fellow aspirants, party members, the academic community, and the public to join the APC in fostering a more inclusive, transparent, and democratic dialogue for the future of our nation.