

## INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

Press Release No: 000003705/2021

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Venue: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

### THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE APPLAUDS AU PAVILION DESIGN AT THE EXPO 2020 DUBAI

The President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, His Excellency Julius Maada Wonie Bio, joined by his official delegation, has applauded the architectural layout and design of the [African Union Pavilion](#) at the Dubai Expo2020 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

During his guided visit to the [African Union Pavilion](#), President Bio said that the “African Union Pavilion at the Expo 2020 Dubai is a true reflection and representation of the continent that we want and are aspiring to be” as he applauded the creativity that has gone in to putting together the exhibition, which traces the story of the AU from its inception in 1963 as the OAU to the present day.



President Bio was on an official visit to the pavilion of his own country [Sierra Leone, which is found within the Opportunity District](#). It celebrates the possibility of ‘new beginnings and tells the story of possible business ventures and learning about the stories behind the nation’s diamonds. It also has an educational kids area. [A pavilion for all](#).

Those planning to visit the [AU Pavilion](#) can expect to traverse on a borderless journey that begins from the formation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) on May 25, 1963 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The visitor experience highlights the untold stories of the founding mothers and fathers of the OAU, dispelling myths and celebrating those who dreamt of the possibilities of a continent free from colonisation and united by the shared vision of collaboration.

That unity later translated into the strategic developmental framework known as Agenda 2063, which is explored in detail in section II of the pavilion, whilst the third and final section will see visitors go on a sensory trip as they experience the sights and sounds of Africa.

[AU Expo Commissioner General, Dr. Levi Uche Madueke](#) said “when we say Africa is ready and open for business, we mean that collectively. As a united continent, we are ready to celebrate our beautiful history with the world, as well as see the evolution of our member states and their people as they partake in the great economic shift that is taking place globally.”

“To have visits by heads of states affirm our continental unity should serve as encouragement



to those thinking about visiting us here, to make the trip and come to hear about our story, from us; its rightful owners” remarked Dr. Madueke

The public, media and all other interested parties can keep up-to-date with the latest news and information out of Dubai, as well as get all the necessary information

surrounding the AUC lead activities/events by visiting the official AU at Expo 2020 website: <https://africaexpo2020dubai.au.int/en>

**For further information please contact:**

**Mr. Lunga Kupiso**, Public Relations & Media Officer - AUC at Expo 2020 | Information and Communication Directorate | African Union Commission

**Tel:** +251 115 517 700 | **E-mail:** [auexpomedia@africa-union.org](mailto:auexpomedia@africa-union.org) | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Ms. Faith Adhiambo**, Communication Officer-Agenda 2063 | Information and Communication Directorate | African Union Commission

**Tel:** +251 115 517 700 | **E-mail:** [ochiengj@africa-union.org](mailto:ochiengj@africa-union.org) | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Information and Communication Directorate**, African Union Commission | **E-mail:** [DIC@africa-union.org](mailto:DIC@africa-union.org)

**Web:** [au.int](http://au.int) | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | **Follow Us:** [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)