



Ministry of Health and Sanitation

4th Floor, Youyi Building

Press Release

Sierra Leone is set for Universal Health and Preparedness Review (UHPR)

Freetown, 1st May, 2023

Embargo – Monday, 1st May, 2023 2:00PM (GMT+0)

The Government of Sierra Leone, through the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, informs the public that a three-day Universal Health and Preparedness Review (UHPR) high-level mission will be held from 2nd – 4th May 2023, at the Freetown International Conference Centre.

Sierra Leone is the first country in West Africa, the second in Africa and the fifth globally to undertake the pilot of the Universal Health and Preparedness Review.

The Universal Health and Preparedness Review is a voluntary, transparent, Member State-led peer review mechanism that aims to establish a regular intergovernmental dialogue between Member States on their respective national capacities for health emergency preparedness.

The aim of the Review is to establish a high-level capacity for health emergency preparedness, based on the principles of equal treatment and mutual accountability.

Under the auspices of the Office of the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation with support from the World Health Organization, will bring together top executives from WHO Headquarters and the African Region, high-level government policymakers and stakeholders from various sectors to discuss and evaluate preparedness and response measures for pandemics, natural disasters and other public health emergencies.

Universal Health and Preparedness Review engages not only the highest levels of government, but all of society to build and strengthen national health systems by establishing the necessary enabling environment for Public Health emergency preparedness and response.

The Executive Director of WHO's Health Emergencies Programme, Dr Michael Ryan, the Assistant Regional Director for Africa, Dr Lindiwe Makubalo and other top executive officers of WHO are in Freetown to facilitate the review and launch of the Universal Health and Preparedness. They will also recognize the successes and progress the country has attained and continue to make in recent time about increasing access to universal health, effective response to health emergencies and the significant reductions in the occurrence of maternal and child deaths among others.

The Universal Health and Preparedness Review will be launched by His Excellency, Rtd Brig Dr Julius Maada Bio on 3rd May 2023. The ceremony will be graced by the full participation of all of government, Civil Society Organization, the Private sector, Community Stakeholders and development partners.

The expected outcomes from UHPR include the Government and development partners' commitment to provide adequate resources for health including health security and the whole of society approach to planning and addressing health emergencies.

Signed

Dr. Sartie.M Kenneh,
Chief Medical Officer
MoHS



A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping vertical and diagonal lines.

01/05/2023

- END -

Media Contacts

Harold Thomas: Ministry of Health and Sanitation; Risk Communication Lead/Health Education Manager: Email; health.education@mohs.gov.sl; Tel: +23276602460

James Kallay: Ministry of Health and Sanitation; Public Relations Officer: Email jamestkallay@gmail.com: Tel: + 23231247511

John Allieu (Tel: 088 110173)