



# INDEPENDENT

## In Sierra Leone a happy future is an educated one

Dr Julius Madda Bio, the President of Sierra Leone, this week explained why his country has decided to invest 22 per cent of its annual budget in education



Children playing at a school in Sierra Leone

In the words of Martin Luther King: “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

We are facing unprecedented, multiple interlocking challenges, which started in 2019 with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, barely a year after I was elected to office.

The pandemic reversed decades of hard-won macroeconomic, socioeconomic and governance gains in Africa. Over 50 million Africans have been plunged into extreme poverty, and most African economies have teetered on the brink of