

From Full Classrooms to Real Learning

Quality education & skills

Free School Education filled the classrooms — that part of the promise was kept. But sit in on a lesson in many of those classrooms, and you'll find children who have attended for years still struggling to read a simple sentence.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Getting children into school was the first half of a promise; making sure they actually learn while they're there is the half still owed. At the same time, too many young Sierra Leoneans finish school, even university, with no clear path into real, paid work — the technical and vocational training system that should carry them there has been underfunded and undervalued for years, and our universities too often function as examination halls rather than engines of research and enterprise.

WHAT WE'RE PROMISING

Redeem the quality half of free education — children who don't just attend school, but learn — and build a genuine pathway from the classroom, through university, into real work.

HOW WE'LL MAKE IT REAL

- We'll make reading the first-stage priority — a child who cannot read by the early grades falls behind in every subject that follows, so getting foundational literacy right early is where the quality half of Free Quality School Education actually gets redeemed.
- We'll build tuition-free technical and vocational training for the trades and programmes where real jobs and real demand exist, with toolkits and certification costs covered for students in those programmes, and extra support — including accommodation — for rural regional centres and for trades where we're deliberately widening access, such as bringing more young women into technical fields.
- We'll build a genuine apprenticeship system in the spirit of the world's most successful technical economies, where a trainee splits time between a training centre and a real workplace — a garage, a farm, a construction site, a hotel — and is assessed on both, so the gap between finishing training and finding a job, where so many young people are lost today, finally starts to close.
- We'll turn our universities into engines of the economy, not just examination halls — tying a share of research funding to work done jointly with industry, seeding incubators on campus, and requiring students in fields like engineering, agriculture and business to complete real placements and test a real business plan before they graduate, not just sit exams.
- And employers will become genuine partners in funding all of this, not just recipients of trained workers, through a shared-cost model — a modest training levy, tax relief for firms that train, or grants toward apprenticeship costs — rather than government carrying the whole bill alone.