

ADDRESS TO THE NATION

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY DR. GEORGE MANNEH WEAH
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

ON

NATIONAL UNIFICATION DAY

MAY 14, 2023

MONROVIA, LIBERIA

MY FELLOW CITIZENS:

On this occasion of National Unification Day,

I come before you to reflect on the significance of unity and its profound impact on the strength of our Nation. National Unification Day stands as a testament to our collective efforts in overcoming social divisions. It is an opportunity for us to recognize the progress we have made and to acknowledge the work that lies ahead in building a more prosperous Liberia.

As we commemorate this day, I am mindful that we may hold different perspectives on how our Nation should move forward; we may have different views of the priorities to achieve this; and we may have different versions of our national vision for this country. This national cause resides in our fidelity to the pledges made in our oaths of office, and our dedication to the rights, freedoms, and opportunities enshrined in our Constitution.

Almost six years ago, when I had the honor to assume the leadership role as President of Liberia, our economy was faced with major challenges in the global market with declining prices for our key exports and persistent increases in the cost of essential imports.

Since then, under my leadership, my Administration has been able to place our economy on a strong and stable footing for growth, development, and prosperity.

MY FELLOW CITIZENS:

Even as we have been successful in turning our economy around, I would like to acknowledge that we could not have done it without your patience and understanding. You have remained resilient, hardworking, hopeful, united, and committed to overcoming these challenges.

Throughout our history, the noble people of Liberia have exemplified bravery, heroism and a shared determination to keep our country peaceful and united. During the most trying of times, you have rallied around your government, transcending political and ideological differences.

During the most trying of times, you have rallied around your government, transcending political and ideological differences. I wish to assure you, for my part, that as we grow our economy from strength to strength, I will always remain steadfast in my duty to seek the welfare of each and every one of you.

As your President, I am devoted to leading our country from poverty to prosperity. Yet, the very essence of Unification Day reminds us that this task cannot be accomplished alone. It requires our collective efforts to develop our human capital, foster a vibrant economy, protect our citizens, particularly women and children by strengthening the rule of law, and ensuring peace and reconciliation.

Let us collectively uphold the rule of law and combat corruption, exploitation, and other vices by providing information wherever we suspect their occurrence, be it in our communities, churches, schools, or workplaces.

I look to you with the expectation that we will also instill these civic values in our children, ensuring that they will pass them on to their generations yet unborn, who will carry the torch of integrity into the future. We cannot passively allow injustice to impact the lives of ordinary citizens or those who reside within our borders, regardless of their nationality. I implore each of you to join me in making a solemn commitment to this cause.

Our adherence to the rule of law is not only a responsibility, but a collective duty.

MY FELLOW CITIZENS:

We must recognize and embrace our ability to be the change we have long awaited. It is only through our indivisible unity as One Nation that we can truly achieve liberty and justice for all.

I am immensely proud to serve such a nation as your President, and I am certain that all of us will once again commit to preserving the peace and unity of our land, not only in our thoughts and words, but also in our actions. May I remind you that there is no more critical or urgent opportunity to do so than when we go into the Presidential and Legislative elections scheduled to be held in a few months, in October this year.

Let us show the world, by the way we conduct ourselves in these pending elections, that our democratic credentials are mature, that our democratic institutions are strong, that our respect for the rule of law is the solid foundation for our unity, peace, the will, and the voice of the people of Liberia will be heard and respected.

MY FELLOW CITIZENS:

As you are aware, our agenda is robust, and our goals are within our reach. We must remember that unity is our greatest strength, and with your unwavering support, I pledge to remain steadfast and never falter in my commitment to you. As we peacefully celebrate National Unification Day today, I leave you with a cherished quote from our National Anthem, "In union strong, success is sure." To the mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, and children of Liberia, I want to assure you that this Glorious Land of Liberty shall long be ours.

Happy Unification Day to all Liberians,
home and abroad!!!

I thank you.