

REMARKS

BY

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

AT A DINNER IN HONOR OF THE VISIT TO LIBERIA
OF

MR. OUSMANE DIAGANA
WORLD BANK REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA

THE EJS MINISTERIAL COMPLEX
MONROVIA LIBERIA

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

The Dean and Members of the Cabinet;

Mr. Ousmane Diagana,

Regional Vice President of the World Bank for Western and Central Africa;

Mr. Pierre Laporte ,

Regional Manager of the World Bank for Liberia, Ghana and Sierra Leone;

Mr. Khwima Nthara, Country Manager of the World Bank for Liberia;

Other Officials of Government;

Our Other Development Partners, here present;

Members of the Fourth Estate;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Government and People of Liberia, and in my own name, I would like to extend a warm and brotherly welcome to you, Mr. Diagana, in your capacity as Regional Vice President of the World Bank for Western and Central Africa, and the members of your delegation, and to thank you for your visit to Liberia today.

The World Bank has been a key development partner for Liberia, and has lent strong, dependable, and generous support to our national development program, the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), during my Administration.

I am aware that under your leadership, Mr. Vice President, the Bank's level of support to Liberia has grown significantly, with national IDA commitments doubling from just under \$500 million US dollars to close to \$1 billion US dollars from 2019 to date .

This is a manifestation of the confidence that the Bank has in my Government's vision for our country.

I am grateful for the team you have put together to work with us on the ground over the past few years, which has been ably led by Mr. Pierre Laporte, Regional Manager of the World Bank for Liberia, Ghana and Sierra Leone; and Mr. Khwima Nthara, Country Manager of the World Bank for Liberia. They have worked tirelessly to ensure that Liberia derives the maximum possible benefit from this long-established partnership with your venerable Institution, and my Government is deeply appreciative of their positive contributions to our development discourse.

In this regard, I have learned that Pierre is due to end his tour of duty in Liberia very soon. We will definitely miss you, Pierre, and I am sure that you will miss us too. Mr. Vice President, my challenge to you this evening is that you should try to find a successor to Pierre that is as good and effective as he is, or even better.

I am also pleased with the very productive discussions that I and my team had with you and your team today . They showed that the Bank is not only here to support us financially, but also to help us mobilize even more resources from other sources in order to bridge our infrastructure deficit, especially in the road and energy sectors.

It also showed that the Bank is aligned with our strategic approach to finding lasting solutions to the problems that have plagued our people. That is what true partnership is about.

I would like to assure you, Mr Vice-President, that my Government will continue to do its part in ensuring that this partnership works in the supreme interest of the Liberian people.

Let me now take this opportunity to thank our other development partners present here for your support to Liberia. Given our critical financing needs, we look forward to your commitment of more resources as we strive to fulfill the dreams, aspirations, and hopes of our people.

I thank you.