

SPECIAL STATEMENT

BY

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

IN OBSERVANCE OF THE 176TH NATIONAL FLAG DAY
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

AUGUST 24, 2023

Her Excellency Madam Jewel Howard Taylor

Vice President of the Republic of Liberia;

The Speaker and Members of the 54th Legislature Here present;

The Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of Liberia;

The Dean and Members of the Cabinet;

The Doyen and Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Traditional Leaders and Members of Civil Society;

Representatives of Local and International Organizations;

Students and Teachers;

Members of the Fourth Estate;

Fellow Liberians;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

Every year on this day, we gather to celebrate our national emblem, the Liberian Flag, honoring the day in 1847 when it was first hoisted. Today, we do so under the theme: “The Lone Star: A Symbol of Unity and Nationalism.”

We take pride in the star and stripes of our national symbol, while remembering the patriotism of its makers. The flag reflects our rich history and the valor of our founding fathers. It symbolizes freedom, as well as the sweat and toil of those who preceded us.

We remain grateful to God for his abiding grace and mercy upon our Nation and People and for bringing us this far, in spite of our many struggles. Liberia continues to make steady progress towards strengthening the foundations of peace and democracy, and respecting fundamental rights as envisioned by our forefathers - and foremothers.

While the flag brings us enormous pride as a people, the day is also meant to remember the heroism of the seven women who designed it. Led by Suzannah Lewis, they masterfully put together one of the most beautiful emblems in the world, ensuring that every fabric and color has a special meaning.

We will continue to honor their contribution to Liberia, and the contributions of all our great women leaders - including our former President - whose personal sacrifices have helped the development of our nation.

We must continue to celebrate all that we have achieved, and remember that regardless of our differences, we are Liberians first, sharing a common heritage and history.

We must all therefore endeavor to maintain the peace we now enjoy, as well as the development that is taking place across the country.

We must be proud of ourselves for the progress we have made, despite the turbulent years; we are a stronger nation now, ready to claim the future.

In a little over a month from now, we will go to the polls to cast our votes in Legislative and Presidential elections. This will be a crucial exercise that will test our institutions. I have promised to ensure that the process is as peaceful and credible as possible. But each of us has a responsibility to ensure that we maintain the peace.

As a Government, we remain committed to upholding the tenets of democracy and the rule of law. But the responsibility also lies with every Liberian. As you know, this year's celebration of Flag Day aligns with the 20th anniversary of the end of the civil war. The upcoming elections are a historic opportunity for Liberians to stand together and demonstrate to the world that we are – and will remain – a peaceful nation.

We have made remarkable progress since the end of the devastating war that led to the destruction of so many lives and properties.

The eyes of the world will therefore be on us this October. Let us demonstrate that we have transitioned to a more democratic nation with robust institutions that have been developed. I am looking forward to that with keen anticipation.

To all Liberians at home and the diaspora, residents, and visitors, I pledge allegiance to the flag of Liberia and to the Republic for which it stands one nation indivisible with liberty and justice.

Let me wish all of you a Happy Flag Day.

God bless you all, and God bless Mama Liberia!

I thank you.