

STATEMENT

BY

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

AT THE FIRST MEETING

OF

THE JOINT PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION TEAM

THE EXECUTIVE MANSION
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

NOVEMBER 24, 2023

Ambassador Joseph Nyuma Boakai
President-Elect of the Republic of Liberia,
and Co-Chair of the Joint Presidential Transition Team (“JPTT”)

Members of the JPTT representing the Incumbent Government;

Members of the JPTT representing the Incoming Government;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Let me welcome all of you, and thank you for joining us today, especially His Excellency Ambassador Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., President-Elect of the Republic of Liberia, and his esteemed team, as we convene here today in the Parlors of the Executive Mansion, the traditional and symbolic seat of power in Liberia, for the inaugural meeting of the Joint Presidential Transition Team 2023.

As we stand on the verge of this historic occasion, guided by the authority granted under Chapter 2, Article 5(c) of the 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia, we find ourselves entrusted with a solemn duty—to chart the course for the seamless transfer of power to the incoming administration. It is in accordance with this mandate that we have issued Executive Order No. 123, establishing the Joint Presidential Transition Team, a collaboration where President-Elect Boakai and I serve as Co-chairs.

This first meeting of the JPPT, and all that will follow, carry immense significance for our democratic legacy and national history. A successful transition, professionally orchestrated, will not only shape the trajectory of our country, but will also positively influence our peace, security, stability, and future prosperity.

In this regard, I am confident that the members of our Transition Team, as well as those of the incoming leadership, possess the best qualities and meet the high standard of competence and skills required to steer the country smoothly from one shore to the other – from the outgoing administration to the incoming administration.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

The 2023 General and Presidential Elections stand as a living testament to the democratic progress we have achieved as a nation. The conduct of these elections, which were the first postwar elections solely organized by the Government and People of Liberia, have won international acclaim from far and wide for their excellence.

My Administration is therefore proud that we have reinforced our credentials as a mature democracy that is governed by strong institutions, with respect for the rule of law.

Our democratic achievements have set a new and enviable standard, not just for Liberia, but for Africa and the global community. By graciously conceding and congratulating President-Elect Boakai ahead of the final tally, we have also earned global recognition and admiration. This monumental achievement is a victory not just for one political entity, but for all Liberians and Liberia as a whole.

As we now embark on this transition, I implore each member of the Joint Presidential Transition Team to carry the spirit of unity and success that has brought us to this point. Let us ensure an effective, efficient, and seamless transfer of power to President-Elect Boakai and his team.

To the ministries, public corporations, and autonomous agencies of the Government, I extend a call for full cooperation in facilitating the transition by diligently preparing your Turnover Notes. The success of this process hinges on our collective commitment to the greater good of our nation.

Members of the Joint Presidential Transition Team, let us be guided by patriotism and selflessness as we fulfill our duties. We are no longer individuals with personal interests, but a united national team working for the welfare and interest of our beloved Mama Liberia.

I encourage this Joint Presidential Transition Team to prioritize and focus on the national interest, and to place the general good of the Liberian people first and foremost in your deliberations.

In emphasizing the importance of prioritizing the interest of our country, let us draw strength from the fact that history is on our side. Six years ago, we made history as the first

democratically-elected leader to receive the baton of power from another democratically-elected leader, after a span of more than 70 years. Today, we are on the verge of passing this symbolic staff to another democratically-elected leader, marking yet another important chapter in our democratic journey.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I now wish to inform you that I have designated Ambassador Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr., Minister of Foreign Affairs and Dean of the Cabinet of the Republic of Liberia, to lead, coordinate and oversee all activities and affairs of the Joint Presidential Transition Team, and in my absence, to act as Co-Chair to conduct all meetings from the side of the Government.

And now, Members of the Joint Presidential Transition Team, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the distinguished pleasure to invite the Co-Chairman of the JPPT, His Excellency Ambassador Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., President-Elect of the Republic of Liberia, to make his opening Remarks.

I thank you.