

REMARKS

BY

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

ON THE OCCASION

OF THE

COMMISSIONING OF A MEDICAL OXYGEN PLANT

STAR BASE

BUSHROD ISLAND

MONROVIA, LIBERIA

OCTOBER 25, 2022

Madam Clar Marie Weah, First Lady of the Republic of Liberia;

The Dean and Members of the Cabinet;

The Doyen and Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Other Members of the Liberian Government here present;

Members of the 54th Legislature here present;

Representatives of our International Development Partners;

Members of the Fourth Estate;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am delighted to be here today to witness the commissioning of this Medical Oxygen Plant, the first of its kind in the country, with the capacity to produce as much as 100 cylinders of oxygen per day.

I am told that the establishment of this important plant is the result of a collaboration between the Government of Liberia with the World Health Organization, and with financial support from the governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States, and Canada.

On behalf of the Government and People of Liberia, I would like to express sincere thanks and appreciation to the Governments of these three countries for supporting Liberia in the fight against COVID-19 and strengthening our health system.

I have been further informed that the United States Government is also supporting the World Health Organization to establish another oxygen plant in Bomi County, and that this is nearly completed and will serve health facilities in Bomi, Grand Cape Mount and Gbarpolu counties. We place immense value on this timely support to protect the country against future emerging and re-emerging public health threats.

In addition to these two new oxygen plants, the Ministry of Health has prepared and presented a roll-out plan for the establishment of eleven (11) more oxygen plants throughout Liberia.

This represents a commitment of my Administration to bring more health services to our communities, as we attempt to increase access to universal health coverage and protect the population from public health threats under the Pro Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD).

These investments in oxygen plants will not only help in addressing any resurgence in the COVID-19 pandemic, but will importantly serve all hospitals with the treatment of other perennial diseases, such as pneumonia, that tend to persist long after the pandemic.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Liberia stands today with both pride and humility among the few countries globally that have successfully managed the COVID-19 pandemic, despite the challenges presented by of our health system. The stabilization of the COVID-19 situation and the declining trajectory of new infections in the country is a result of my Government's swift action in leading and managing the response, in collaboration with our international partners.

Today, I am pleased to announce that the Ministry of Health has confirmed to me that since the beginning of this year, no death related to COVID-19 was reported nationwide.

However, COVID-19 remains unpredictable, as the Ministry has recorded 317 cases in August, and 70 cases in September. I am told that the number of new infections is unlikely to exceed 70 during this month of October.

I thank all Liberians for cooperating with the government and for adhering to health protocols. We will continue to take all necessary steps to protect the lives of all Liberians. Our journey towards building herd-immunity against the pandemic is also in full swing. Liberia is winning the battle on this front; with the vaccination coverage reported as being above 76%; thereby putting us as a country in the 3rd position on the African continent.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

COVID-19 has not disappeared globally and could mutate to more dangerous variants. However, we will remain committed as a Government to continue our efforts to reform and revitalize Liberia's public health systems, and will continue to take the essential steps to render them more robust and resilient.

On behalf of the citizens of Liberia, our country, I will like to thank Dr. Clement Lugula Peter, our international partners, members of the SPACO and Star Base teams for the gift of life, which is our last hope. We are grateful to God for his provisions.

I thank you