

Remarks By:  
**His Excellency Dr. George Manneh Weah**  
**President of the Republic of Liberia**  
At A  
*Held at the American Embassy*  
*Near Monrovia*  
*On the Occasion of the*  
*243<sup>rd</sup> Independence Anniversary*  
*Of*  
*The United States of America*  
*Monrovia, Liberia*  
*May, 8, 2019*

Madam Ambassador  
U.S. Embassy Staff and Citizens  
Honorable Members of the Legislature  
Honorable Members of the Judiciary  
Doyen and Members of the Diplomatic Corps  
The Dean and Members of the Cabinet  
Traditional Leaders  
Political, Religious and Business Leaders  
Others Officials of Government  
Youth Leaders  
Members of the Press; Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

Madam Ambassador, it is my pleasure to be your guest on this occasion when you are celebrating the 243<sup>rd</sup> Independence Anniversary of your great Country, the United States of America.

On behalf of the Government and the People of Liberia, and in my own name, I wish to extend warmest greetings and congratulations to you, and through you, to President Donald J. Trump, and the Government and People of the United States of America.

As I said when I attended the observance of your 242<sup>nd</sup> Independence Day in July of last year, these celebrations always provide us with a chance to renew and reaffirm the remarkable and historical friendship which has for so long existed between our two countries and people.

In the intervening months since then, I have had the opportunity to visit your country, when I attended the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York in September of last year.

During that time, I also visited other cities and states, as well as the West Point Military Academy. I have also been privileged to have had informal personal interactions with your President, Donald J. Trump, the first on the sidelines of the General Assembly meetings, as well as at the World Peace Forum in Paris, France, in November 2018.

The cordiality of these brief encounters were a further reflection of the warm friendship between Liberia and the United States of America.

As a further manifestation of this friendship, President Trump recently extended the Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for qualified Liberians residing in the United States. This was a humanitarian gesture of great significance to Liberia, its citizens, and the socio-economic stability of our economy.

Please express to President Trump the deep gratitude and appreciation of all the people of Liberia.

Madam Ambassador, I am sure that you will agree with me, that since the inception of our administration just over (15) months ago, there has been steady growth in the relationship between our two countries, and closer collaboration between you, your Embassy, and the relevant officials of my government.

My administration will continue to work closely with you and your team here at the Embassy, as we together explore new avenues for the common pursuit of peace, security and development.

I took an oath to uphold the constitution and laws of the Republic of Liberia. As such, it is my constitutional duty to protect all the rights granted under the constitution to every citizen, including the right to assemble peacefully and orderly and present petition to the government on the matters concerning the common good.

I also have an equal duty and responsibility to preserve and protect the peace and stability of the state.