

REMARKS

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY DR. GEORGE MANNEH WEAH

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

AT THE

DEDICATION

OF THE

FACILITIES

AT THE

INTERNAL AUDIT AGENCY

TUBMAN BOULEVARD

CONGO TOWN

MONROVIA, LIBERIA

11:00 ANTE MERIDIAN

18 FEBRUARY 2019

Hon. Emmanuel B. Nyeswa, Director-General of the Internal Audit Agency;

Other Officials of Government here present;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am saddened as I stand before you this morning, when I reflect upon the numerous deaths and calamities that have occurred in our Country since the beginning of 2019 – the second year of my Administration. My thoughts, prayers, and condolences go out to the bereaved families and the survivors and victims of these tragedies. May the Almighty God that we worship, extend His hand of protection to our Nation and People, and bring solace and comfort to us in our time of grief and loss.

And so I ask you to stand with me as we observe a moment of silence in their honor.

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in Perfect Peace, and may the survivors and victims' recover speedily from their injuries and misfortunes.

PLEASE BE SEATED.

Today, we are here to dedicate the modern facilities that have been installed in this building to be used by the Internal Audit Agency in the execution of its mission to uncover and prevent corruption and fraud in the Ministries, Agencies, Commissions, and other State-owned Enterprises of the Liberian Government.

Corruption, waste, and the abuse of public resources have continuously undermined Liberia's development since independence. Past administrations have done what they could to fight corruption, but with little or no success. In spite of their efforts, officials of government continued to violate the public trust with impunity.

During my Inaugural Address when I was sworn in as President of Liberia, I promised the Liberian people that I would spare no effort to fight corruption.

In fulfilment of this pledge, my Administration has committed significant resources to anti-graft institutions, including the Internal Audit Agency, and we will continue to provide the necessary support that these institutions need to do their job.

Besides providing such support, my Administration is presently prosecuting those Government employees who have been found to be engaged in these unwholesome practices. All those found guilty will be dealt with in keeping with the full weight of the law.

Since its establishment, the Internal Audit Agency has been doing a commendable job in cleaning our Government's payrolls of padding with ghost workers. Several million dollars have been saved from such exercises conducted at the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. I am informed that the next sector to be tackled is the Ministry of Justice and the rule-of-law sector.

From these savings, Government was able to take on the responsibility of paying health workers who were previously being paid by donors, and to put volunteer teachers on the Government's payroll.

The practice of payroll padding through the placement of ghost names on payrolls, is a phenomenon which has existed in many previous administrations, none of which has been successful in eradicating it.

Under this Administration, however, we will continue to give the necessary support and encouragement to this exercise, until all such fraudulent practices have been eliminated.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the leadership and dedicated staff of the Internal Audit Agency for a job well done so far, and to express the hope that the modern, state-of-the-art equipment that we have dedicated today, will enable you to become even more effective in your fight against graft and corruption.

I thank you.