

**SPECIAL STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. GEORGE
MANNEH WEAH PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
ON THE OPENING OF THE 2021 NATIONAL COUNTY SPORTS
MEET**

January 9, 2021

Fellow Liberians, residents, friends and well-wishers:

Today we embark on yet another exercise that serves to integrate our diverse cultural heritage in order to unite us as a people. The National County Meet is no doubt Liberia's biggest sporting competition which pits our different political subdivisions against one another in friendly encounters.

While the games showcase our local talents through spirited competitions, it also presents an opportunity to take pride in our local traditions, as we demonstrate true nationalism.

I urge everyone to continue to espouse the positive Liberian values throughout these games.

Over the past years, as the tournament garnered steam, it has come to epitomize a period when we take on a carnival atmosphere as we support our counties. I imagine this year will be no different.

The 2021 competition should in fact be particularly significant, coming on the heels of a very polarizing electioneering period.

The National County Meet breaks down all divides be it political, ethnic or social. So as we step out today and throughout the tournament to cheer our teams, may we do so under the friendliest of ambience and

atmosphere. Let fair play and respect for the rules of the games be the hallmark of the tournament. I also urge all officials, supporters and spectators to respect the match officials and refrain from interference. I wish all participants good luck and best wishes.

May the best team win!

God bless Liberia.