

Honorable President Pro – Tempore of the Liberian Senate, Senator Albert T. Chie;
Senator Geraldine Doe – Sheriff, Chair of the Committee on Executive and Members of
the Senate Leadership;
Chairpersons of the various Senate Committees;
Distinguished Senators of the 54th Legislature;
Visiting Senators and Representatives from the 52nd and 53rd Legislature here present;
The Honorable Secretary, Chambers Officials, Directors and Staff of the Liberian Senate;
Our International Partners and Friends of Liberia;
Esteemed Members of the 4th Estate;
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today epitomizes a significant milestone in the history of the Legislature of Liberia, as I humbly begin my service to this Noble Assembly as the first ever female President of the Liberian Senate. My ascendancy also marks the first time in the history of our Legislature that a Sitting Senator has democratically metamorphosed to serve as President of the Senate.

My transition from the floor of the Liberian Senate to this noble platform, as your President and President Officer, truly humbles me and I am grateful for this opportunity to work with you during the next six years. It is my hope that together, we the members of the 54th Legislature can change our country and build the Liberia the Liberia that we all yearn for.

To God be the Glory and Honor, for great things he has done for our Nation and People. He alone deserves all praise, and because of his mighty works, his unfailing grace and his matchless love, we have witnessed an unprecedented democratic transition and our Nation, by His grace, is firmly anchored on an irreversible path of Peace, Unity, Progress and Development.

I beg your indulgent to permit me, at this juncture, to extend heartfelt gratitude to President George Manneh Weah and the people of Liberia for the confidence reposed in me to serve our Nation in this capacity. I pledge to do my best, working in concert, to deliver on our PRO – POOR agenda for the people of Liberia. In gratitude to the women of Liberia, the Religious Community, the young people and all of our people across the length and

breadth of this country, allow me to say in our Liberian way: YOUR THANK YOU, YAHH. I ask each of you to lend your government your fullest support in the years to come, and as eloquently articulated by President Weah in His inaugural address, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, WE WILL NOT FAIL YOU.

Distinguished Senators, I am truly humbled by the awesomeness and enormity of the constitutional duties and responsibilities which have devolved upon me as Vice President of our Republic. The duties so ascribed to this noble office, which I hold in trust, MANDATE me to use all within my means to maintain and sustain the spirit of collaboration and coordination which will ensure the success of our national agenda.

As a servant of our people and a political help mate to the 24th President of the Republic of Liberia, His Excellency George Manneh Weah, this historic and momentous occasion marks the official beginning of my tenure of service, to our Nation and people, as Vice-President of our Republic and President of the Honorable Liberian Senate. I therefore have the singular honor to welcome each of you, Distinguished Senators, Special Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, to this session.

At this juncture, Distinguished Senators, I bring you special greetings from his Excellency, President George Manneh Weah, who himself was, just a few days ago, a member of the Liberian Senate. The President wishes for us productive deliberations and challenges us to take cognizance of the philosophical direction of his government which primarily focuses on a PRO-POOR agenda.

In his message, the President reaffirms his full commitment to working with the Legislature, within the ambit of the Constitution, statutes and Laws; underpinning the tenets of good governance in formulating legislations and programs that will result to the positive transformation of the living standard of our people, secure sustainable opportunities for our young people and enhance rapid economic and infrastructural development.

Distinguished Senators, I beg your indulgence to lend me a few minutes, in my modest attempt, to share some thoughts with you as I assume my new role as President of the

Liberian Senate. In this capacity, it is expected that the national agenda of the President of Liberia will form the basis of the Legislative agenda of our government over the next six years. It is my prayer that as I lift this noble gavel on this historic day, that each of us will recommit all of our energies to working for the fulfillment of the wishes and aspirations of our people; and play well our respective parts in ensuring the smooth operations and realization of our government's PRO-POOR agenda. This may require the assessment of existing laws and statutes; and/or the formulation of new legislations which reflect the current realities.

Distinguished Senators, I enjoin you to always remain mindful of the covenant we have undertaken with our respective constituencies and the solemn oath to which we have individually sworn, a new social contract which we are inexcusably obligated to uphold.

On yesterday, January 22, 2018, at mid-day, our Country, Liberia, witnessed for the first time in its 170 year history, the peaceful transition of political power from an incumbent governing Party to a victorious opposition political party. Never before in our history have we had such peaceful, though fiercely contested elections, which finally culminated into a smooth democratic transition of which we take pride.

Distinguished Senators, we can truly, that the roots of our nascent democracy are being consolidated and strengthened. The onus is therefore on us as elected leaders of our people to ensure that the sustained peace we've enjoyed over the past years remains uninterrupted as a basis for the enhancement of rapid economic growth and development.

With the elections and the attendant euphoria fast receding in history, let us now settle down to do the people's work with a renewed determination to transform, once and for all, the lives of our people.

It is also my prayer that we will put aside all actions and attitudes which engender perceptions of adversity and rivalry amongst us. The job we are summoned to do by our people is as sacred as it is demanding. We should thus have no accommodation for distractions and pursuit of parochial interest.

In the constitutional discharge of our duties, it is abundantly imperative that we go the extra mile---as the Upper House of the First Branch of Government---to be hope-givers, pacesetters and innovators.

The challenge is even more glaring, noting the overwhelming evidence of the reality that the changing of the political guards at the helm of our national leadership has occasioned such dramatic soaring of the expectations of our people. Out there, we see an ocean of unemployed youth, the unquenched desire for economic and political empowerment of women and an emaciated people wailing for emancipation and relief. We must convince them that in these chambers we are doing nothing but our very best to address the inadequacies.

It is therefore imperative that finished products from this citadel of republican democracy must go to strengthening our democracy, reinforcing the hope and optimism of our people, and broadening our nation's image onto greater vistas. This is the essentiality of our PRO-POOR agenda.

By virtue of my role as Vice President of the Republic and President of the Senate, I acknowledge my unique position as the only public official of our Government specifically privileged by our organic law to have one foot in the First Branch of Government and the other in the Second.

In the discharge of this critical role, I can only lean on the guidance from God, the full support from you the members of this Honorable House, and the inspiration from the Liberian people. As one fully conscious of the truism that the common denominator for all three branches of our government is the quest for enhancement of the welfare of the people, I shall commit this gavel to the harmonization of percepts, purposes and actions steps that engender outcomes that positively impact the lives of those who have placed their trust in us and sent us here.

In closing, I cannot find adequate words to assure you enough that I today present myself to you ready and willing to serve you with a clean heart, clear eyes, and sharp ears. Be

assured that I view each of you through only one prism---the lenses of patriotism, altruism, compassion, humanity, and deep love for country.

I harbor no doubt that you come to your seats with no less devotion to the honorable purpose that brings us together.

Inspired and emboldened by our national mantra, IN UNION STRONG SUCCESS IS SURE, let us get to work stopping at nothing but the great vision that this Capitol bears.

May the Good Lord guide and bless the work of our hands and save the state.

Thank you. God bless!