

REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY JOSEPH NYUMA BOAKAI, SR. PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA AT THE DEDICATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY HEADQUARTERS AND COMMISSIONING OF THE
ELEMENTAL ANALYZER

Thursday, July 16, 2026

The Executive Director and Board of Directors of the Environmental Protection Agency;

Members of the Cabinet;

Representatives of the Legislature and Judiciary;

Development Partners;

Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Traditional and Community Leaders;

Staff of the EPA;

Distinguished Guests;

The Media

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is with great pleasure that I join you today for the dedication of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) headquarters edifice and, along with it, the commissioning of the Agency's new Elemental Analyzer. This represents Liberia's commitment to stronger governance, responsible development, scientific research, and the protection of the health and well-being of our people.

The Environmental Protection Agency has a vital responsibility in the state of affairs and forward march of this nation. It must help ensure that the pursuit of economic growth does not destroy the forests, wetlands, rivers, coastlines, and other natural resources upon which present and future generations depend. Liberia needs investment and development, but development must be properly regulated to protect communities, prevent pollution, and preserve our natural heritage.

This milestone also demonstrates what public institutions can accomplish when leadership, accountability, partnership, and long-term national interest guide important government decisions today.

The acquisition of this property is therefore an important institutional achievement. The building provides the EPA with a permanent home, offices, conference facilities, and workspaces for its technical and administrative staff. The property also contains the EPA's state-of-the-art laboratory, strengthening Liberia's capacity for scientific testing, monitoring, research, and evidence-based enforcement.

I am informed that this property, including 1.8 acres of land, was acquired for about eight hundred thousand United States dollars, including taxes and fees. This amount is significantly below the assessed market value. The purchase ends the continuous payment of rent and converts public expenditure into a permanent asset. This passes for a practical example of responsible financial management, institutional foresight, and value for public money.

For this achievement, we appreciate Dr. Urey Yarkpawolo and the EPA Team. Institutions such as the EPA must be hosted in permanent facilities.

Today, we also commission an Elemental Analyzer valued at one hundred thousand euros, donated by the International Atomic Energy Agency through a competitive process. This equipment will improve the EPA's ability to analyze soil, water, sediments, plants, and other materials.

The analyzer will support regulators, researchers, farmers, universities, health professionals. It will contribute to understanding of soil fertility, water quality, pollution, organic carbon, coastal ecosystems, mangroves, and the impacts of development activities.

For many years, Liberia's regulation and research have been constrained by limited scientific data, inadequate laboratory capacity, and the pressure and delays occasioned by the need to send samples outside the country. This equipment will reduce those limitations, reinforce confidentiality, strengthen ownership of information, improve regulatory decisions, support academic research, and contribute to refreshing Liberian scientists and training students.

I commend the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and partners whose support made this monumental achievement possible. I also recognize the EPA's collaboration with the University of Liberia and Manchester Metropolitan University, and research on Liberia's mangroves and their capacity to store organic carbon. These partnerships show what can be achieved when government, academia, development partners, and researchers work together.

I call upon the leadership and staff of the EPA to maintain this building and equipment professionally. The laboratory must operate according to recognized standards and serve enforcement, research, education, innovation, and sound policy.

Our Government remains committed to implementing the ARREST Agenda and protecting Liberia's environment while advancing sustainable economic development. Environmental protection is not an obstacle to development; it makes for the foundation and guardrail for development, ensuring it is responsible, inclusive, resilient, and lasting.

Let me now take the honor to dedicate the Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters and commission the EPA Elemental Analyzer for the service of Liberia and its people.

May this facility strengthen governance, promote scientific discovery, protect public health, and contribute to a cleaner, safer, and more prosperous Liberia.

Thank you, and may God bless the Republic of Liberia.