



**Remarks by  
H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf  
President of the Republic of Liberia  
at the  
238<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Reception  
of the  
United States of America  
Executive Pavilion  
Thursday, July 3, 2014**

**[As Delivered]**

Ambassador Deborah Malac;  
U.S. Embassy Staff and Citizens;  
Honorable Members of the Legislature and of the Judiciary;  
The Doyen and Members of the Diplomatic Corps;  
The Dean, Members of the Cabinet and Other Officials of Government;  
Traditional Leaders;  
Political, Religious, Business, Youth and Civil Society Leaders;  
Media Representatives;  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

From Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death", to Thomas Jefferson's "We hold these truths to be self evident that all men are created equal", to Abraham Lincoln's "Government of the people by the people for the people shall not perish from the earth", the cry for freedom, liberty and democracy rings throughout the world.

While, today, these are the catchwords with which America's independence is fondly celebrated - and rightly so - we note that 328 years ago, these lofty ideals began quite simply with courage, and were energized by sacrifice and deepened by leadership.

After our country's years of turbulence, we, in Liberia, have renewed our own journey to freedom, liberty, democracy and prosperity. The strong examples of America's travel to greatness are not lost upon us. We know that if we are to succeed, we must remain courageous to do what is right not just for ourselves but for prosperity. We know that we must sacrifice - perhaps not with blood, but with sweat - to make change possible. We know that we bear the scars that freedom and democracy can inflict, yet we must remain committed to a leadership of transformation in which every Liberian will give more and not less, so that the next generation will do better than the present.

Madam Ambassador, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Over the course of a century and a half of bilateral relations, Liberia and the United States of America remain bonded by deep ties of friendship, partnership and kinship. Together, we have taken extraordinary steps in strengthening these bonds through partnership dialogues and other initiatives

that are mutually beneficial, and we recommit ourselves to continue to explore avenues for greater cooperation and collaboration.

Among such initiative is the young program which 15 of our young people are now in the United States benefiting from exchange and interaction from other young people from Africa. Another initiative as mentioned by you, Madam Ambassador, is next month's US-Africa Leaders Summit hosted by President Barrack Obama, to which Liberia been invited and where along with other African leaders, we will have the opportunity to dialogue about investing in Africa's future, peace and regional security and governing for the next generation. We look forward to productive Summit and outcome.

Liberia continues to benefit from US cooperation and assistance especially in the areas of security, accountability, health and human capacity development.

Most recently, as you pointed out Madam Ambassador, Liberia was selected to benefit from Power Africa Initiative and I hold you to the commitment you just made that we shall see light all over Liberia. We applaud the contributions of the Peace Corps Volunteers and their support of the Twining Program which is providing young Liberian graduates the opportunity to work with Volunteers in teaching assignments across the country. We have already begun to see the results of these efforts.

With the help of the United States, recently, our Government undertook the first rotation of its troops deployed in the Africa-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA). We are proud of the quality of the services provided by our soldiers and remain grateful to the U.S. for the training and other logistical support which not only made this mission possible, but enabled an important transformation of our country from being widely considered an exporter of war to an exporter of peace.

Once again, Madam Ambassador, congratulations to you, your Government and the American people on your nation's 238th birthday.

## **TOAST**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I invite you to raise you glasses to the good health, long life and happiness of President Barack and Michelle Obama; to the prosperity and well – being of the American people; and to the bonds of friendship and cooperation which exist between the Republic of Liberia and the United States of America.

Happy Independence Day, on the Fourth of July!