

EXPLORING TENOR VARIABLE AND INTERPERSONAL MEANING IN PRESIDENT GEORGE WEAH'S INAUGURAL SPEECH

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Abstract

The inaugural ceremony of the newly-elect president George Manneh Weah has made Liberia the focus of international attention as well as leading newspapers, television and radio stations across the globe. His speech was greeted with thousands Liberians waving flags and dancing through the various streets and communities across the country. It has been described as one of the best inaugural orations in modern history. Thus this speech deserves scrutiny. Drawing on Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) Theory, this research work deals with Exploring Tenor Variable and Interpersonal Meaning in President George Weah's Inaugural Speech. This study aims to explore how tenor dimension and interpersonal meaning are realized in the selected speech so as to provide an interpretation for a deep understanding of the messages conveyed. Basing on quantitative and qualitative methods, this research work has helped reveal that George Weah has used exclusively declarative and imperative moods in his speech and the core messages conveyed are related to his gratitude, promises, and calling for National Unity for the building of a "New Liberia".

Key Words: mood, tenor, systemic functional linguistics, New Liberia

Résumé

La cérémonie inaugurale du nouveau président élu, George Manneh Weah, a fait du Liberia le centre de l'attention internationale, ainsi que les principaux journaux, chaînes de télévision et stations radio du monde entier. Son discours a été accueilli par des milliers de Libériens agitant des drapeaux et dansant à travers les différentes rues et communautés à travers le pays. Ce discours a été décrit comme l'un des meilleurs discours inauguraux de l'histoire moderne. Aussi, mérite-t-il une analyse minutieuse. Suivant la théorie de la Linguistique Systémique Fonctionnelle (SFL), ce travail de recherche porte sur l'exploration de la variable teneur et du sens interpersonnel du discours inaugural de George Manneh Weah. Ce travail de recherche vise à explorer comment la variable teneur et le sens interpersonnel sont réalisés dans le discours choisi afin d'en faire une interprétation pour une compréhension approfondie des messages véhiculés. Suivant les méthodes quantitative et qualitative, ce travail de recherche a permis de révéler que George Weah a utilisé exclusivement les modes déclaratif et impératif dans son discours et les messages clés transmis sont relatifs à sa gratitude, ses promesses et son appel pour l'Unité Nationale pour la construction d'un "Nouveau Liberia".

Mots clés : mode, teneur, linguistique systémique fonctionnelle, Nouveau Libéria

Introduction

One of the first and foremost features of human beings is their needs and abilities to share their ideas, thoughts and viewpoints with peers around them. We thereby say that human beings communicate. In other words, in every geographical setting where there is more than one person, people do not stay on their own. They live together, they interact, they communicate. Indeed, public performance is a vital means of communication, and an effective way of conveying speaker's messages to the public (audience). Political speech is a case in point with the aim of making the political viewpoints widely known or winning support for proposal. Liberian Presidential Inaugural Address is a political speech delivered by the newly-elect president, George Manneh Weah, on the occasion of the inaugural ceremony in January 2018.

This research work focuses on Exploring Tenor Variable and Interpersonal Meaning in George Weah's Inaugural Speech. Many reasons justify the choice of this speech among others. As a matter of fact, Liberia has exceptionally changed the political pages of modern democracies across various continents by making history as the first sovereign state in the world to elect and sworn in office an acclaimed international soccer legend as president of the republic, while in 2005 Liberia became the first African country to elect a female president. The Tuesday's occasion made Liberia the focus of international attention and at the same time captured on the front pages of global leading newspapers and in the headlines of top television and radio stations across the globe when former president Johnson-Sirleaf peacefully transferred power to president Weah, with thunderous cheers echoing through the stadium and across the country; something that hasn't been done in Liberia's 74-year of history. The exciting speech was greeted with thousands Liberians waving flags and dancing through the various streets and communities across the country. The address has been described as one of the best inaugural orations in modern history. It then values to explore such a speech of this recent event.

Drawing on Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory proposed by M. A. K. Halliday (1985), this research work aims to explore how tenor dimensions and interpersonal meaning are realized in President George Weah's Inaugural Speech so as to provide an interpretation for a deep understanding of the messages conveyed.

1. Methodology

Both quantitative and qualitative methods have been used in this research work. As an objective research tool, quantitative method helps to quantify data and generalize results from a sample of the population of interest. Basing on this method,

President George Weah's Inaugural Speech has been selected and Systemic Functional Linguistic Theories have been applied to it. As a subjective approach, qualitative research helps to collect, analyse and interpret data by observing what people do and say. Thus, the statistical results found from the quantitative research have been analysed, interpreted following a qualitative method and more importantly, the reasons that underpin those statistics have been explained as well.

2. Theoretical underpinning

Systemic Functional Linguistics provides techniques and principles to analyze and explain how meanings are made in everyday linguistic interaction. It considers language as a social semiotic system (i.e. how people use language with each other in accomplishing everyday social life). Systemic functional linguistic study of language involves three functional labels: experiential, interpersonal, and textual meanings. In addition, Halliday (1978) suggested that there are three aspects in any situation that have linguistic consequences: field, tenor and mode. The organization of context correlates with the organization of grammar. This means that there is a strong association between each of the three register variables and the metafunctions. Indeed, while field strongly correlates with experiential meaning, tenor and mode are associated with interpersonal and textual meanings respectively. It is important to note that this research work focuses only on tenor variable and interpersonal meaning.

2.1 Tenor

Halliday (1978) defines tenor of discourse as “the interactions between participants in terms of status and role relationship” (Halliday, 1978: 62). Tenor is concerned with social relations enacted through the dimensions of power and solidarity. Based on these dimensions of power and solidarity, Eggins (1994, 2004) whose definition of tenor is “the social role relationships played by interactants”, breaks (referring to Cate Poynton, 1985) this contextual variable into three continua which are “power”, “affective involvement”, and “contact”.

- ❖ Power Continuum: The power continuum positions situations in terms of whether the role

We are playing are those in which we are of equal or unequal power: a friend to friend conversation and a boss employee conversation are respectively examples of equal power end unequal power.

- ❖ Affective Involvement Continuum: The Affective involvement continuum positions

Situations in terms of whether the roles we are playing are those in which the affective involvement between us is high or low. This dimension refers to the extent to which we are emotionally involved or committed in a situation. For example,

friends or lovers are obviously affectively involved, whereas work associates are typically not.

- ❖ **Contact Continuum:** It positions situations in terms of whether the roles we are playing are

Those that bring us into frequent or infrequent contact. For example, the contact between spouses is frequent whereas the one between distant acquaintances is occasional.

2.2 Interpersonal Meaning

The Interpersonal metafunction of a speech represents the way the addresser and the audience interact, the use of language to establish and maintain relations with them, to influence their behaviour, to express our own viewpoint on things in the world, and to elicit or change them. It mainly concerns the Roles of Addressers and Audience, Mood and Modality. The Interpersonal metafunction mainly involves the analysis of Mood, Modality and Personal Pronouns.

2.2.1 Speech Roles and Primary Speech Functions

In Interpersonal metafunction, the clause is organized as “an interactive event involving speaker, or writer and audience” (Halliday, 1994: 106). The term “speaker” covers both speaker and writer. When people speak, the speaker adopts for him/herself a particular speech role while assigning to the listener a complementary role, which he/she wishes him/her to adopt in his/her turn (Halliday, 1985). The most fundamental speech roles are giving and demanding. The speaker is giving something to the listener, or demanding something from the listener. The two types of commodity exchanged are goods and services or information. Taking these two variables into consideration, Halliday (1994) defines the four primary speech functions: offer, command, statement, and question. If the speaker gives goods and services to the listener, this is an offer; if he/she gives information, this is a statement. If the speaker demands goods and services from the listener, this is a command; if he demands information, this is a question. These four functions are realized by the different Mood choices: declarative, interrogative, and imperative. A statement is expressed as a declarative clause, offer and a question as an interrogative clause and a command as an imperative clause.

2.2.2 Exchanging Information: the grammatical structure of propositions

It (the proposition) can be divided into two functional constituents: mood and residue.

- ❖ **Constituents of the Mood:** The Mood is one of the elements to compose a clause. In other

words, it is the element which comes first in the clause and serves as the starting point for the message. It consists of Subject, which is a nominal group, and Finite, which is part of a verbal group.

- ❖ **Constituents of the Residue:** A residue is a functional constituent of a clause which can be

left. Contrary to the Mood which contains two constituents, the Residue can contain a number of functional elements. These are: the predicator, one or more complement and any number of different types of adjuncts.

2.2.3 Exchanging Goods and Services: The grammatical structure of proposal

The grammatical structure of proposal deals with the grammar of clause through which tangible commodities or activities are exchanged. It is the grammatical structure of the language we use to influence each other's behavior. Halliday (2004: 176) suggests two categories for using language to exchange goods and services which are: given goods and services through the speech function of offer and demanding goods and services through the speech function of command. We frequently use a clause of the MOOD type "imperative" to make command. An imperative may contain only a finite or a subject in its MOOD element, or a RESIDUE.

2.3 Modality

Thompson (2000) states that modality also plays an important role in carrying out the interpersonal metafunction of clauses showing to what degree the proposition is valid. Modality refers to the space between "yes" and "no", showing the speaker's judgments of the probabilities or the obligations involved in what he/she is saying. According to Thompson (2000: 57), modality consists of modalisation and modulation.

- ❖ **Modalisation** relates to the speaker's judgment of the validity of the proposition, and covers the scale of probability (possible-probable-certain) and usuality (sometimes-usually-always).

- ❖ **Modulation** relates to how confident the speaker can be in the eventual success of the exchange, and it includes the degree of obligation (allowed-supposed-required) and the inclination (willing-keen-determined).

2.4 Personal Pronouns

There are three types of personal pronoun system: the first personal pronoun includes "I", "We", "Us", "Our"; the second personal pronoun includes "You", "Your"; while the third ones include "They", "It", "Their". According to Li (2004), personal pronouns have the interpersonal function in discourse. They establish a certain relationship between the addresser and the audience in a speech. The purpose of an addresser is to inform, suggest and thus communicate. The choice of

different personal pronouns has an effect on the audience. Because the choice of personal pronoun can clearly make the audience know the attitude of the speaker. It can establish the social relationship between the speaker and audience in a speech. Thus, Personal pronouns are viewed as another way of carrying interpersonal meaning apart from Mood and Modality. Generally, the first personal pronoun “I” and “we” refer to the addresser, the second personal pronoun “you” refers to the addressee.

3. Data analysis

3.1 Tenor Dimension in the selected speech

As mentioned above, tenor is the social role relationships played by interactants. Indeed, this research work is concerned with an Inaugural Speech of the Liberians’ new President. Here the interactants are the President, the citizens, and the guests. In other words, the interactants are the president and his audience. Broadly the power between them is unequal, the contact is infrequent and the affective involvement is low.

3.2 Interpersonal meaning in the selected speech

- ❖ Move Types: The move types found in the speech are statement and command.
- ❖ Mood Types: The statistics of the mood types are displayed in Table 1 below for further clarification.

Table 1: Statistics of Mood Types in the selected speech

Mood types	Number	Percentage
Declarative	252	97.29%
Imperative	07	2.70%
Total	259	99.99 \approx 100%

Source: Dadjo, S. (2020)

As it appears in Table 1 above, most of the clauses in the selected speech are declarative. They represent 97.29% of all mood types in the selected speech. The following clauses are selected for illustration.

Table 2: Declarative Moods in the selected speech

Clause N°	Adj: vocative	Subject	Finite	Predicator	Complement	Adj: cir
		MOOD		RESIDUE		
1	My fellow citizens	I	Am	Humbled	And thankful	
19		I	promised		To do everything in my power...	
90		I	Have	<u>here</u> taken Adj: cir	an oath....	
96		We	Need		men and women, boys and girls.....	

Source: Dadjo, S. (2020)

The dominant frequency of declarative clauses in George Weah’s Inaugural Speech is meaningful. Indeed, through these declarative clauses, George Weah gives as much as possible information to the audience, with which he succeeded in expressing his gratitude to his supporters on one hand. The clauses (1), (2) and (5) indicate this: “My fellow citizens, I am humbled and thankful for the trust and hope you have put in me” and (5) “To all our citizens and international guests, we thank you for coming”. Here, he expresses his thanksgiving to all the Liberian for the trust they have in electing him and his gratitude to all the people present at this inaugural ceremony. He also expresses gratitude toward International organizations and some core States. On the other hand, he makes promises, persuading and showing the necessity of each other for the realization of the promises. Many clauses indicate these: (19) “I promise to do everything in my power to be the agent of positive change”. (20) “But I cannot do it alone”. Through declarative clauses, George Weah clearly enlightens his governance publicly declaring a fight against corruption. (113) “It is my belief that the most effective way to directly impact the poor”, (114) “and to narrow the gap between rich and poor”, (115) “is to ensure that public resources do not end up in the pockets of Government officials”. (124) “We must pay civil servants a living wage”, (125) “so that corruption is not an excuse” (126) “for taking what is not theirs”. Imperative moods represent 2.70% of all mood types in the speech.:

Table 3: Imperative Moods in the Speech

Clause N°	Subject	Finite	Predicator	Complement	Adjuncts
	MOOD		RESIDUE		
80	Let us all		Stand	For a moment of silent	
82	Let it		never be	So	again
92			Rest	Assured	

Source: Dadjo, S. (2020)

Imperative clause also plays an important role in George Weah’s speech. Through this he appeals the audience to follow his instruction; in that it helps him build up his authority over the crowd. It is important to note that two kinds of messages are conveyed through imperative moods: one consisting to command others to do something while the other consists to invite the audience to do something together. The latter is always associated with the format “let us”. In this line, while calling back Liberian attention on their past in the aim of not rendering their efforts (those who suffered of martyr for the sake of equality and freedom of Liberia) vain, he invites the audience to stand up for a moment with him in remembrance of their death. “Let us all stand for a moment of silence to remember those who died on our soil, in our conflict, and by our own hands” (C_{80, 81}). With a modulated tone, he commands the audience. This is the case in clause (83) “THANK YOU. PLEASE BE SEATED”. Furthermore, he persuades Liberian with the promises for building a New Liberia ad shown in Clause (92) “REST ASSURED, I WILL NOT LET YOU DOWN”.

3.3 Modality Analysis in George Weah’s Speech

Modality refers to the space between “yes” and “no”, showing the speaker’s judgments of the probabilities or the obligations involved in what he/she is saying. Modality can be used to understand the speaker’s position, emotion, affirmation and attitude towards his/her will, revealing the speaker’s estimation and uncertainty to the recognition of things. Thus through the analysis of various types of modality, the speaker’s interpersonal meaning could be better reflected in his speech. The modal auxiliaries (finite modal operators) which occur in this address are “will”, “must”, “can”, “would”, “should” and “may”. The statistics of modal auxiliaries in the selected speech are displayed in Table 4 below for further clarification.

Table 4: Modal Auxiliaries in the Selected Speech

Modal auxiliaries	Numbers	Percentages (%)
Will	40	57.142
Must	13	18.571
Can	9	12.857
Would	4	5.714
Should	3	4.285
May	1	1.428
Total	70	99.99 \approx 100%

Source: Dadjo, S. (2020)

As indicated in Table 4 “Will” is the modal operator most frequently used (57.142%) followed by “must” (18.571%) and “can” (12.857%) which are not less important in proportions. The use of the other modal operators, “would” (5.714), “should” (4.285) “may” (1.428) is very low in proportions. It is important to note that the use of “will” has enabled George Weah to announce the purposes and priorities for his authority as president. The following instances illustrate this: (142) “My government will prioritize the interests of Liberian” (134) “We will do all” (136) “That will be conducive for the conduct of honest and transparent business.” (137) “We will remove unnecessary regulatory constraints” (140) “We will not permit Liberian owned businesses to be marginalized.” (171) “ECOWAS will continue to play a very meaningful role during my presidency.” (227) “That I will make over the next six years to advance the lives of poor Liberians.” (229) “I will do more than my fair.”

The modal operator “must” always stands for the obligation and conjecture. It is a modal auxiliary of high value, which is provided, more often than not, with strong emotionalism. George Weah uses it for the purpose of arousing the audience’s sense of responsibility for their country. The following examples illustrate this: (102) “We must learn how to celebrate our diversity.” (106) “We must not allow political loyalties prevent us from collaborating in the national interest.” (107) “We must respect each other.” (124) “We must pay civil servants a living wage.” George Weah uses “can” to shorten the distance existing between the audience and him not to force and command them to follow his instruction. The following clauses illustrate this: (20) “But I cannot do it alone.” (28) “We can do better, together.” (141) “We cannot remain spectators in our own economy.”

3.4 Personal Pronouns Analysis

Personal pronouns have the interpersonal function in discourse. The statistics of personal pronouns in George Weah’s inaugural speech are displayed in Table 5 below for further clarification.

Table 5: Personal Pronouns in the Selected Speech

Personal pronouns	Number	Percentage
I (my; me)	79	29. 81%
We (our; ourselves; us)	125	47. 16%
You (your; yourselves)	42	15. 84%
He/she (his; him; her)	04	1. 50%
They (their; them; themselves)	15	5. 66%
Total	265	99.97 ≈ 100%

Source: Dadjo, S. (2020)

As indicated in Table 5 above, the first personal plural pronouns represent 47. 16% and the first personal singular pronouns represent 29.81% whereas the second personal pronoun “you” represent 15.84% and the third personal pronouns (singular 1. 50%, plural 5. 66%) are very low in proportions.

From the table above, it is obvious that “we (our, ourselves, us)” is the most frequently used in the selected speech: (5) “To all our citizens and international guests, we thank you for coming”. (12) “Today we all wear the jersey of Liberia...” (25) “Together we owe our citizens clarity on fundamental issues such as the land beneath their feet, freedom of speech...” (28) “We can do better, together”.

Statistically the first person singular “I” follow the first person plural “we”. George Weah expresses uses the first person singular not only to express his gratitude to his citizens as illustrated in the clauses (1), (2), (3) below but also to make promises as the clauses (89) and (93) indicate it: (1) “My fellow citizens, I am humbled and thankful”; (2) “For the thrust and hope you have put in me”; (3) “I am filled with joy and pride to see so many friends from across the world join us in celebrating...”; (89) “It will be my task, my duty, and my honor, to lead this nation from division to national unity, and toward a future of hope and prosperity. (93) “I will not let you down.”

The second personal pronouns “you” enable George Weah to express gratitude to his nation and international representations that helped him during his electoral

campaign. The clauses (5), (87), (187) indicate this: (5) “To all our citizens and international guests, we thank you for coming”. ; (87) “And I say “my people, thank you, yaaaaaaaaa”; (187) “we thank you for your strong support over the years”.

4. Discussion of the findings

The results of the mood analyses carried out above show the mood structure of the selected speech. They indicate that George Weah in his speech has used a very high proportions of declarative moods (97.29%). They highly outnumber imperative moods which represent only 2.70%. As declarative mood functions as giving information, it can then be contended that George Weah in his speech has been almost exclusively informative. Through these declarative moods, he expresses his gratitude to his electors, to the people present at the ceremony and toward International organization and some states, showing his governance plan, making promises and persuading Liberian of the realization of those promises as well. Indeed, George Weah shows the necessity for all Liberians to build a “New Liberia”. All these are expressed through some expressions and clauses. These are “I am humbled and thankful”, “thank you”, “I promise”, “We need men and women, boys and girls” (C₉₆), “no place for corruption”.

As far as imperative moods are concerned, they appear in a very low proportions in the speech representing only 2.70% of all mood types in the speech. Through imperative, George Weah commands the crowd to stand for a moment of silence in remembrance of the brave dead people and also invites the audience to sit down. Through these he fulfills two kinds of messages: “Let us all stand for a moment of silence to remember those who died on our soil, in our conflict and by our own hands”; “Thank you. Please be seated” (C_{80, 81, 83}). He has commanded the crowd on one hand and or the other invite them to stand up with him. Through the use of modulated imperative, the president shows his respect and humility to his assistance. It is important to note the absence of interrogative mood in George Weah’s inaugural speech. The absence of interrogative mood in his speech thus means that he is not in quest of information. He really knows the realities and the problems that his country is facing.

As far as modality is concerned, the statistics presented in Table 4 and highlighted in Graph 2 show that the predominance of the modal operator “will” (57.42%) This indicates that George Weah plans a lot in his future executing authority as president. This also shows the will that accompanies these plans. Immediately follows the modal operator “must” expressing obligation. After this comes “can” which expresses possibility. All these suggest that the President as well as the citizens have not only the possibility but also the obligation to meet the challenge of building a New Liberia.

Personal pronouns constitute a great part in the analysis of this speech. The high proportions of the first personal plural pronoun “we” shows George Weah’s

attachment to the “National Unity”, on which he insists on through the speech. He is humble and eliminates any distance that should normally exist between a president and citizens so as to keep a closer relationship with them. (215) “This is time that we put away our political differences to work together in forging a New Liberia”. (28) “We can do better together”. The president is calling all the Liberians without distinction to hold hands and to be one for the great challenge as he quoted from their National Anthem “In union strong, success is sure. We cannot fail. United, we are certain to succeed as a Nation. Divided, we are certain to fail” (C₁₀₉, 110, 111, 112). With the first personal pronoun “I”, George Weah has made promises. This implies that it is “I” George Weah that is promising you. This is what he is meaning saying (92) “Rest assured” (93) “I will not let you down”. Liberians responsibility was called through the personal pronoun “you”. This is “Mine is an expectation that you, fellow citizens, will rise up and take control and responsibility for your destiny, that you will push yourselves to achieve the possibilities that are within your reach” (C_{233, 234, 235,239, 240}).

On a deep and close scrutiny, it must be pointed out that there is an important use of the vocative “My fellow citizens”; “My fellow Liberians”. These vocative come at the beginning, while and at the end of the speech. It shows not only the level of humility of the president but also his special way of calling back his audiences’ attention. It also highlights his level of intimacy towards Liberians

Conclusion

This research work has attempted to explore tenor variable and interpersonal meaning in President George Weah’s inaugural speech. The interactants are the President and the audience. Then, broadly, the power between them (George Weah the President and the audience) is unequal, the contact is infrequent and the affective involvement is low. The move types found in the speech are statement and command.

The mood analysis of the speech has proved that the declarative clauses are predominant (97.29%). This demonstrates that he gives as much as possible information to the audience. As far as imperative moods are concerned, George Weah commands the crowd on one hand and on the other hand invites them to stand up with him. The absence of interrogative moods in his speech means that he is not in quest of information.

The analyses have proved that modality is expressed in George Weah’s speech through modal operators. The statistics show that the modal operator “will” dominates and represents 57.42% of all the modal operators in the speech. This shows his plans in the future executing authority as president.

Personal pronouns constitute a great part in the analysis of this speech. The statistics show that the first personal pronouns dominate and represent 76.97% of all personal pronoun types in the speech. The predominance of the first pronoun

personal especially “we” indicates his attachment to his citizens. He is humble and eliminates any distance that should normally exist between a president and citizens and makes them all one for the sake of the Liberia. The use of the personal pronoun “I” is an affirmation of his personality showing his governance plan and his promises as well. As far as vocatives are concerned, it is important to note that from time to time, the president uses “My fellow citizens”; “My fellow Liberian...”; to call back his audiences’ attention. It also highlights his level of intimacy towards Liberians.

The description and analysis of the selected speech has helped reveal that George Weah has used exclusively declarative and imperative moods in his speech not only to express gratitude to his fellow citizens but also to make promises and call for National Unity for the building of this “New Liberia” as well.

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Analyzed Appendix

MOOD ANALYSIS

Keys:

S=Subject, F=Finite, Fn=negative, Fms=modalised, Fml=modulated, P=Predicator, Pml=modulated predicator, Pms=modalised predicator, F/P=fused Finite and Predicator, C=Complement, Ca=attribute complement, A=Adjunct, Ac=circumstantial, Am=mood, Ao=comment, Ap=polarity, Av=vocative, Aj=conjunctive, At=continuity Wh=wh element, Wh/S, Wh/C

Clause by clause mood analysis of George Weah's Inaugural Speech

Her Excellency, Madam
Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
Excellency Head of States
Ambassador Joseph Nyumah Boakai
Hon. Jewel Howard-Taylor
Vice President of the Republic of Liberia
The Governing Council of the Tripartite Coalition for
Democratic Change (CDC)
Madam Clar M. Weah
First Lady of the Republic of Liberia
His Honor, the Chief Justice, and Associate Justices of the
Supreme Court of the Republic of Liberia
Speaker and Members of the House of Representative
The Honorable Pro-Tempore and Members of the Liberian
Senate
The Dean and Members of the Cabinet
The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and
other Representatives of the United Nations
The Doyen and Members of the Diplomatic Corps
International Partners and Political Stakeholders
Our Religious Community and Traditional Council, Market
Women, the Student Body, the fourth Estate
Special Guests
Distinguish Ladies and Gentlemen

1- My fellow citizens (Av), I (S) am (F) humbled (P) and thankful (C) **2-** for (Aj) the trust and hope you have put in me (C). **3-** I (S) am (F) filled (P) with joy and pride (Ca) [to see (F/P)] so many friends (C) from across the world (Ac) join (P) us (C) in celebrating (C) **4-** what (S) is (F) truly an historic moment (Ca) for our country (C). **5-** To all our citizens and international guests (C), we (S) thank (F/P) you (C) for coming (C). **6-** I (S) have (F) spent (P) many years (C) of my life (C) in stadiums (Ac), **7-** // but (Aj) today (Ac) is (F) a feeling like no other (Ca). **8-** I (S) am (F) overwhelmed (P) with the crowd and the energy (C) here today (Ac), **9-** // and (Aj) I (S) guarantee (F/P) you (C), **10-** when (Ac) we (S) finish (F/P), **11-** there (S) will (Fml) not be (Fn) a winning or a losing side (C). **12-** Today (Ac), we all (S) wear (F/P) the jersey (C) of Liberia (Ac), **13-** // and (Aj) the victory (S) belongs (F/P) to the people (C), to peace (C), and to democracy (C). **14-** The tens of thousands (C) of Liberians (Ac) here today (Ac), // and (Aj) many more (C) in our communities (Ac) across the country (Ac) **15-** who (S) are (F) listening (P) gathered together (Ca) around radios in the palava hut (C), **16-** it (S) is (F) to you (C) we (S) are (F) responsible (Ca) [to deliver (F/P)] the change (C) you (S) deserve (F/P). **17-** Indeed (Ac), we (S) must (Fml) deliver (P) the change (C) **18-** // that (Aj) our people (S) need (F/P), in order to transform their lives (C) for the better (Ca). **19-** I (S) promise (F/P) [to do (F/P)] everything in my power (C) [to be (F)] the agent of positive change (C). **20-** // But (Aj) I (S) cannot (Fms) do (P) it (C) alone (Ca). **21-** First (Ac), I (S) call upon (F/P) the revered institution (C) **22-** // that (Aj) host (F/P) us (C) today (Ac) // and (Aj) from which (Aj) the Vice President (S) // and (Aj) I (S) come (F/P)– **23-** The Legislative – our coequal branch of government (S), [to work (P)] with me (C) [to create (P)] // and (Aj) pass (F/P) essential laws (C) **24-** // that (Aj) are (F) needed (P) [to complete (F/P)] the foundation of this nation (C). **25-** Together (Ca), we (S) owe (F/P) our citizens (C) clarity on fundamental issues (C) such as (Aj) the land beneath their feet, freedom of speech (C), **26-** // and (Aj) how national resources and responsibilities (S) are (F) going (P) [to shift (P)] from this capital (C) to the counties (Ac). **27-** The people (S) expect (F/P) better cooperation (Ca) // and (Aj) more action (C) from their government (C). **28-** We (S) can (Fms) do (P) better, together (Ca). **29-** Today (Ac), we Liberians (S) have (F) reached (P) an important milestone (C) in the never-ending journey (Ac) for freedom, justice (C), and (Aj) democracy (C); **30-** a search (C) // that (Aj) has (F) remained (P) central to our history (C) as a nation (C). Many of those (C) // who (S) founded (F/P) this country (C) **31-** left (F/P) the pain (C) // and (Aj) shame of slavery (C) [to establish (F/P)] a society (C) **32-** where all (Ac) would (Fms) be (F) free and equal (Ca). **33-** // But (Aj) that vision (C) of freedom, equality, and democracy (C) has not (Fn) yet (Aj) been (F) fully (Ca) realized (P). **34-** That human (S) longing (F/P) for true and lasting freedom (C) **35-** has (F) revealed (P) itself (C) in many ways since (Ca) Liberia's (C) founding (F/P). **36-** Sometimes (Ac) the drive (S) has been (F) divisive (P) // and (Aj) confrontational (C); // and (Aj) too often (Ac) violent, bloody, and deadly (Ca), **37-** as (Aj) it (S) was (F) in the 14 years (C) of

civil conflict (C), **38-** when (Ac) the absence of equality and unity (S) led (P) us (C) down (P) the path (C) of destroying our own country (C). **39-** Notwithstanding (Ca) the harshness and immeasurable (S) cost (F/P) of the lesson (C), **40-** we (S) have (F) learned (P) // that (Aj) equality and freedom (S) **41-** are (F) never just (Ca) a final destination (C) **42-** that // (Aj) a people or a nation (S) reaches (F/P). **43-** These (S) are (F) fundamental human rights (C) **44-** // that (Aj) our people (S) deserve (F/P) **45-** // and that (Aj) must (Fms) be (F) held up (P) // and (Aj) measured (F/P) against (C) our actions, our policies, our laws, and our purpose (C) **46-** as (Aj) those (S) elected (F/P) [to serve (F/P)] the people (C). **47-** Almost 15 years ago (Ac) , Liberians (S) laid down (F/P) their arms (C) **48-** // and (Aj) renewed (F/P) their hope (C) for a better (Ca) // and (Aj) more equal society (C). **49-** With the help of regional partners and the United Nations (C), we (S) chose (F/P) democracy (C) as our path (C), **50-** // and (Aj) elected (F/P) the first post war Government (C), **51-** which (C) was (F) led (P) by Her Excellency, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf (C). **52-** Your Excellency (Av), I (S) thank (F/P) you (C) for laying the foundation (C) **53-** upon which (C) we (S) can (Fml) now (Ac) stand (F/P), in peace (C) // and (Aj) [to advance (F/P)] progress (C) for our country (C). **54-** // But (Aj) this Inaugural Ceremony (S) signals (F/P) more than a peaceful transition (C) from one democratic administration to another (Ca). **55-** It (S) is (F) also (Aj) a transition (C) from one generation of Liberian leadership (C) to a new generation (C). **56-** It (S) is (F) indeed (Ac) a confirmation (C) **57-** // that (Aj) democracy (C) exists (F/P) in Liberia (Ac), **58-** // and that (Aj), it (S) is (F) here (Ac) [to stay (F/P)]! **59-** We (S) have (F) arrived (P) at this transition (C) neither by violence, nor by force of arms (Ca). **60-** Not a single life (S) was (F) lost (P) in the process (C). **61-** Blood (S) should (Fms) never (Aj) be (F) the price tag (C) for democracy (C). **62-** Rather (Ca), this transition (S) was (F) achieved (P) by the free and democratic will (Ca) of the Liberian people (C), **63-** guaranteed (F/P) by the rule of law (C). **64-** This Inaugural gathering (S) also (Aj) celebrates (F/P) an important precedent (C): **65-** // that (Aj) we Liberians (S) can (Fml), **66-** // and (Aj) will (Fml), rely (P) on established institutions (C) and (Aj) the rule of law (C) [to resolve (F/P)] our political disagreements (C). **67-** This (S) demonstrates (F/P) the maturity of our institutions (C) **68-** and that (Aj) we (S) as (Aj) a people (C) have (F) learned (P) valuable lessons (C) from our brutal history (C). **69-** My fellow Liberians (Av), let not the splendor of these ceremonies, nor the celebration of electoral victory (S), **70-** make (F/P) us (C) forget (P) how (Ca) we (S) arrived (F/P) at this moment (Ac). **71-** We (S) have (F) arrived (P) here (Ac) on the blood, sweat, tears, and suffering (Ca) of so many of our citizens (C), **72-** too many of whom (C) died (F/P), longing for real freedom and equality (C). **73-** Today (Ac), we (S) must (Fms) remember (P) the hundreds of thousands (C) who (S) died (F/P), **74-** // and (Aj) many more whose lives (C) were (F) up ended and families displaced (Ca), **75-** because (Aj) we (S) lost (F/P) sight (C) **76-** of the fact that (Aj) we (S) can (Fml) only (Ca) reach (P) a higher state of equality and freedom (Ac) by

treating each other (Ca) with love and respect (C) – not tearing each other down (C). **77-** Truly (Ca) [taking (F/P)] this lesson (C) to heart (Ac) will (Fml) bring (P) the dawn (C) of a new Liberia (Ac). **78-** So that (Aj) their deaths (S) would not (Fms) be (F) in vain (Ca), **79** I (S) solemnly (Am) pledge (F/P) today (Ac), with the help of all of you, my fellow citizens (C), [to build (F/P)] a Liberia (Ac) of equality, freedom, dignity, and respect for one another (C). **80-** Let us all (S) stand (F/P) for a moment of silence (C) [to remember (F/P)] **81-** those who (S) died (F/P) on our soil (Ca), in our conflict (C), // and (Aj) by our own hands (Ca). **82-** Let it (S) never (Aj) be (F) so again (Ac). **83-** THANK (F/P) YOU (S). PLEASE (Am) BE (F) SEATED (P).

MY FELLOW CITIZENS (Av) , LADIES AND GENTLEMEN (Av) :

84- On this day (Ac) of inauguration (C), as (Aj) we (S) begin (F/P) [to build upon (F/P) the foundation (C) of this New Liberia (Ac), **85-** I, George forky klonjlalehgbahkugbehTarpeh Manneh Weah (S), your new President (C), must (Fms) first□ give (F/P) thanks and praises (C) to the Almighty God (C) **86-** for the blessings (C) he (S) has (F) bestowed (P) on our country (Ac). **87-** // And (Aj) I (S) say (F/P) “my people thank you, yaaaaa” **88-** for entrusting me with the responsibility of leading the effort (C) [to build (F/P)] this New and better Liberia (Ca). **89-** It (S) will (Fml) be (F) my task, my duty, and my honor (C), [to lead (F/P) this nation from division (C) to National Unity (C), // and toward (Aj) a future of hope and prosperity (C). **90-** I (S) have (F) here (Ac) taken (P) an oath (C) **91-** before (Aj) you (C), // and before (Aj) the Almighty God (S), [to uphold (F/P)] our constitution (C) // and (Aj) [to preside (F/P)] over this Government and this country (C) to the best (Ca) of my abilities (C). **92-** REST (F/P) ASSURED (Ca), **93-** I (S) WILL NOT (Fml) LET YOU DOWN (S)!! **94-** // And so (Aj), My Fellow Citizens (Av), I (S) want (F/P) [to admonish (F/P) you (C), **95-** that (Aj) the foundation of the New Liberia (S) must (Fms) be (F) reinforced (P) by the steel of integrity (Ca). **96-** We (S) need (F/P) men and women, boys and girls (C), **97-** whose integrity (C) provides (F/P) the foundation of the trust (C) **98-** that (S) is (F) required (P) for Liberian society (C) [to benefit□ (F/P)] her people (C).

MY FELLOW CITIZENS (Av), LADIES AND GENTLEMEN (Av):

99- During (Ac) my tenure (C) as (Aj) President of Liberia (C), the loudest battle cry (C) // that (Aj) must (Fms) ring (P) from the mountains of Wologisi (Ac) to the peak of Yekepa (Ac); from the ranges of Putu to the hills of Bomi (Ac); // and (Aj) from the coast of Harper to the shores of Monrovia (Ac) ,**100-** must (Fms) be (F) the cry of National Unity (C)! **101-** We (S) should (Fms) all strive (F/P) [to put (P) aside our differences (C) // and (Aj) join (F/P) hands in the task of nation building (C). **102-** We (S) must (Fms) learn (P) how (Ac) [to celebrate (F/P)] our diversity (C) **103-** without (Aj) [drawing (F/P) lines of divisions (C) in our new Liberia (Ac). **104-** We (S) belong (F/P) to Liberia first (Ac) **105-** before (Aj) we (S) belong (F/P) to our inherited tribes (C), or (Aj) chosen counties (C). **106-** We (S) must not (Fms) allow (P) political loyalties prevent us (C) from collaborating in the national interest

(C). **107-** We (S) must (Fms) respect (P) each other (C) **108-** // and (Aj) act (F/P) as neighbors, regardless of religious, social and economic differences (C). In the words of our National Anthem (C): [Quote] **109-** “In union strong, success (C) is sure (Am). **110-** We (S) cannot (Fml) fail (P).”[Unquote] **111-** United (P), we (S) are (F) certain (Ca) [to succeed (P)] as a Nation (C). **112-** Divided (P), we (S) are (F) certain (Ca) [to fail (F/P)].

MY FELLOW CITIZENS (Av), LADIES AND GENTLEMEN (Av):

113- It (S) is (F) my belief (C) // that (Aj) the most effective way (Ca) to directly impact (Ca) the poor (C), **114-** // and (Aj) [to narrow (F/P)] the gap (C) between (Ac) rich and poor (C), **115-** is (F) [to ensure (P) // that (Aj) public resources (C) do not (F) end up (P) in the pockets (Ac) of Government officials (C). **116-** I (S) further (Aj) believe (F/P) **117-** that (Aj) the overwhelming mandate (C) I (S) received (F/P) from the Liberian people (C) **118-** is (F) a mandate (C) [to end (F/P)] corruption (C) in public service (Ac). **119-** I (S) promise (F/P) [to deliver (F/P) on this mandate (C). **120-** As (Aj) officials of Government (C); it (S) is (F) time (Am) [to put (F/P)] the interest of our people (C) above our own selfish interests (Ca). **121-** It (S) is (F) time (Ca) [to be (F)] honest (Ca) with our people (C). **122-** Though (Aj) corruption (S) is (F) a habit amongst our people (C), **123-** we (S) must (Fms) end (P) it (C). **124-** We (S) must (Fms) pay (P) civil servants (C) a living wage (C), **125-** // so that (Aj) corruption (S) is not (Fn) an excuse (C) **126-** for (Aj) taking (P) what (C) is not (F) theirs (C). **127-** Those who (S) do not (F) refrain (P) from enriching themselves (C) at the expense of the people (C) – **128-** the law (S) will (Fml) take (P) its course (C). **129-** I (S) say (F/P) today (Ac) **130-** // that (Aj) you (S) will (Fml) be (F) prosecuted (P) to the full extent of the law (C). **131-** To the private sector (C) , I (S) say (F/) to you (C) **132-** // that (Aj) Liberia (Ac) is (F) open (Ca) for business (C). **133-** We (S) want (P) to be (F) known (P) as (Aj) a business-friendly government (C). **134-** We (S) will (Fml) do (P) all (Aj) **135-** that (Aj) is (F) within our power (Ac) [to provide (F/P)] an environment (C) **136-** that (Aj) will (Fml) be (F) conducive (Ca) for the conduct (C) of honest and transparent business (C). **137-** We (S) will (Fml) remove (P) unnecessary regulatory constraints (C) **138-** // that (Aj) tend (F/P) [to impede (F/P)] the establishment and operation of business (C) in a profitable and predictable manner (Ca). **139-** As (Aj) we (S) open (F/P) our doors (C) to all foreign direct investments (C), **140-** we (S) will not (Fml) permit (P) Liberian (S) owned (F/P) businesses (C) [to be (F)] marginalized (Ca). **141-** We (S) cannot (Fml) remain (P) spectators (C) in our own economy (C). **142-** My government (S) will (Fml) prioritize (P) the interests of Liberian- (C) owned (F/P) businesses (C) **143-** // and (Aj) offer (F/P) programs (C) [to help (F/P)] them (C) **144-** become (F/P) more competitive (Ca) // and (Aj) offer (F/P) services (C) **145-** that (Aj) international investors (S) seek (F/P) as (Aj) partners (C).

MY FELLOW CITIZENS (Av):

146- This victory (S) could not (Fml) have (F) been (F) possible (Ca) without (Aj) the support of the youth of this country (C), the women of this country (C), **147-**

especially (Ca) those who (S) make (F/P) their living (C) by selling in the markets (Ca). **148-** To all of you (C), I (S) want (F/P) [to say (F/P) a heartfelt thank you (C). **149-** This (S) is (F) your government (C)!!! **150-** In the famous words (Ca) of President Abraham Lincoln (C) of the United States of America (Ac) **151-** “...government of the people (C); by the people (C), // and (Aj) for the people (C).” **152-** We (S) could not (Fml) have (F) arrived (P) at this day (Ac) **153-** without (Aj) our voices (C) been (F) heard (P) loudly (Ca), **154-** // and (Aj) all our views (C), no matter how critical (Ca), being (F) freely (Ca) expressed (F/P) in (Ca) an atmosphere void of intimidation (C) // and (Aj) arrest (Ca) .**155-** This (S) was (F) only (Ca) made (F/P) possible (Ca) by the tolerance (C) of my predecessor (C), Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (Av), **156-** who (S) protected (F/P) the right (C) to Freedom of Speech (C) as (Aj) enshrined (F/P) in our Constitution (Ca).**157-** Now (Ac), in my turn (C), I (S) will (Fml) go (F) further (Ac) [to encourage (F/P)] // and (Aj) reinforce (F/P) not only (Aj) freedom of speech (C), **158-** but also (C) freedom of political assembly (C).

MY FELLOW CITIZENS (Av), LADIES AND GENTLEMEN (Av):

159- [To change (F/P)] the structure of the Liberian economy (C) will (Fml) require (P) huge investments (C) in agriculture, infrastructure, inhuman capital, and in technology (Ac). **160-** We (S) hope (F/P) our international development partners (C) **161-** will (Fml) assist (P) us (C) in this transformation (Ac). **162-** Meanwhile (Aj), on behalf of (Aj) all Liberians (Av) , I (S) would (Fml) like (P) [to thank (P) the international community (C) for the invaluable contributions (C) **16-** they (S) have (F) made (P) to our peace and economic development (C). **164-** I (S) thank (F/P) the ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES, (ECOWAS) (C), **165-**for standing (C) with Liberia (Ac) throughout (Aj) these years (Ac). **166-** Many of our West African brothers and sisters (S) shed (F/P) their blood for Liberians (C) during (Ac) our conflict (C). **167-** This (S) is (F) a debt Liberians (C) **168 -** will (Fml) never (Aj) be able (P) [to repay (F/P)]. **169-** We (S) count (F/P) these fallen West African soldiers (C) among (Aj) the martyrs of our history (C). **170-** Without their supreme sacrifices (C), this day (Ac) would not (Fml) have (F) been (F) possible (Ca). **171-** ECOWAS (S) will (Fml) continue (P) [to play (P) a very meaningful role (C) during my presidency (Ac). **172-** I (S) also (Aj) thank (F/P) the UNITED NATIONS (C) **173-** for the important role (C) it (C) has (F) played (P) in Liberia (Ac). **174 -** We (S) stood (F/P) with the United Nations (C) at its founding (C) **175-** when (Ac) it (S) was (F) just (Aj) an idea (C) driven (P) by ideals (C). **176-** Then (Ac), in our darkest days (Ac), the UN (S) stood (F/P) by us (C). **177-** UN peacekeeping missions (S) have (F) ensured (P) unbroken peace (C) within our borders (Ac) for more than a decade (Ca), **178-** // and (Aj) will (Fml) soon (Aj) demonstrate (P) their confidence in us (C), **179-** by transitioning its task (Ca) from peacekeeping programs of UN organizations (C) **180-** which (Aj) will (Fml) continue (P) in key sectors (C) such as (Aj) education, health, and agriculture (C). **181-** Ending (F/P) a peacekeeping mission (C) successfully (Ca) is (F) something in

which (Aj) all Liberians and her partners (S) 182- should (Fms) take (P) great pride (Ca). **183-** We (S) thank (F/P) all member countries of the United Nations (C) for your support (C) **184-** // and (Aj) I (S) promise (F/P) [to continue (F/P)] [to build (F/P)] on the success (Ac) **185-** // that (Aj) we (S) have (F) achieved (P) together (Ca). **186-** To the Government (C) // and (Aj) People of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (C), we (S) thank (F/P) you (S) **187-** for your strong support (C) over the years (Ac). **188-** The Republic of Liberia (S) has (F) a strong historic relationship (C) with the United State of America (Ac), **189-** which (Aj) has (F) manifested (P) itself (C) **190-** // and that (Aj) relationship (C) will (Fml) even (Aj) be (F) stronger (Ca) under (Ac) my administration (C). **191-** To the EUROPEAN UNION (C), I (S) say (F/P) thanks to you (C) for your strong partnership (C) with Liberia (Ac). **192-** European aid (S) has (F) provided (P) critical support (C) for Liberia's recovery (C) from war (C), **193-** // and (Aj) this continuous support (C) will (Fml) be (F) important (Ca) **194-** as (Aj) we (S) forge (F/P) a new path of transformation (C). **195-** Without Europe (C) George Manneh Weah (S) would not (Fml) be (F) standing (Ca) here (Ac) [delivering (F/P)] this inaugural address (C) as (Aj) the 24th President of the Republic (C) of Liberia (Ac). **196-** It (S) was (F) my success (C) in European football (C) **197-** // that (Aj) enabled (F/P) me (C) [to give (F/P)] back to my beloved country (C). **198-** Europe (Ac) will (F) always (Ac) have (F) a special place (C) in my heart (Ac), **199-** and (Aj), as President (C), I (S) intend (F/P) [to strengthen (F/P)] my relationship (C) with the European community (C) for the benefit of all Liberians (C). **200-** To the PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC (C) OF CHINA (Ac), I (S) say (F/P) "XIEXIE" (C). **201-** Our administration (S) will (Fml) continue (P) [to support (P)] the "One-China Policy" (C). **202-** China (Ac) has (F) emerged (P) as (Aj) one of Liberia's (C) most dependable allies (Ca). **203-** It (S) is (F) my hope (C) **204-** // that (Aj) Chinese-Liberian relationships (S) will (Fml) grow (P) stronger (Ca) during (Ac) my tenure (C) as President (C). **205-** The Samuel Kanyan Doe Sports Complex (S), built (F/P) by the Chinese (C), **206-** where (Ac) this Inaugural Ceremony (S) is (F) being (F) held (P), **207-** is (F) where (Ac) I (S) gained (F/P) my exposure (C) to the football world (C). **208-** It (S) does not (F) only (Ca) stand (P) as (Aj) a monument (C) of Chinese friendship (C) toward (Aj) Liberians (C), **209-** but (Aj) It (S) also (Ca) stands (F/P) as (Aj) a symbol of peace and reconciliation (C) for the Liberian people (C). **210-** During our civil conflict (Ac), this (S) was (F) a venue (C) **211-** // that (Aj) brought (F/P) opposing factions (C) together (Ca) during national matches (Ac), **212-** effectively (Ca) reconciling (F/P) them (C) to a single national purpose (C), Liberia (Ac). **213-** // And (Aj) once again today (Ac), we (S) stand at (F/P) this same venue (C) **214-** united (F/P) for one purpose (C): Liberia (Ac). **215-** This (S) is (S) time (Am) **216-** // that (Aj) we (S) put (F/P) away (Aj) our political differences (C) [to work (F/P) together (Ca) in forging a New Liberia (C), **217-** where (Ac) the affordability (C) of all goods and services (C) will (Fml) no longer (Ca) be (F) a luxury to the privileged (C), but rather (Aj) a right (C) for all Liberians (C). **218-** To the AFRICAN UNION (C), I (S) also

(Aj) say (F/P) thank you (C) for standing (C) with (Aj) Liberia (Ac) over the past several years (Ac). **219-** Liberia (Ac) has (F) always (Ac) had (P) an historic relationship (C) with the AU (Ac). **220-** As (Aj) a founding member (C) of the African Union (C), I (S) look forward (F/P) [to participating (F/P) with my colleagues (C) at forthcoming summits (C), **221-** where (Ac) we (S) intend (F/P) [to utilize (F/P)] the resources (C) and (Aj) expertise (F/P) of the African Union (C) for the benefit of our country (C). **222-** To other bi-lateral and multi-lateral partners (C); I (S) say (F/P) a sincere thank you (C)! **223-** The World Bank, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Norway, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, (S) [to name (F/P) too few (Ac), have (F) also (Aj) played (P) important roles (C) in Liberia's emergence (Ac) from conflict (C) **224-** // and (Aj) will (Fml) remain (P) critical for the transformation (C) we (S) seek (F/P).

MY FELLOW LIBERIANS (Av):

225- My greatest contribution (S) to this country (C) as (Aj) President (C) may not (Fml) lie (P) in the eloquence of my speeches (C), **226-** // but (Aj) will (Fml) definitely (Ca) lie (P) in the quality of the decisions (Ac) **227-** // that (Aj) I (S) will (Fml) make (P) over the next six years (Ac) [to advance (F/P)] the lives of poor Liberians (C). **228-** I (S) intend (F/P) [to construct (F/P)] the greatest machinery (C) of pro-poor governance (C) in the history (Ac) of this country (C). **229-** I (S) will (Fml) do (P) more than (Ca) my fair (C) **230-** share (C) [to meet (F/P)] your expectations (C). **231-** I (S) ask (F/P) you (C) [to meet (F/P)] mine (C), **232-** for (Aj) I (S) cannot (Fml) do (P) it (C) alone (Ca). **233-** Mine (S) is (S) an expectation (C) **234-** // that (Aj) you (S), fellow citizens (Av), will (Fml) rise up (P) **235-** // and (Aj) take (F/P) control and responsibility (C) for your destiny (C). **236-** // That (Aj) you (S) will (Fml) look away (P) from the things (C) // that (Aj) divide (F/P) us (C), **237-** // and (Aj) draw (F/P) strength and energy (C) from the things (C) that (Aj) unite (F/P) us (C). **238-** Mine (S) is (F) an expectation (C) **239-** that (Aj) you (C) will (Fml) push (P) yourselves (C) [to achieve (F/P) the possibilities (C) **240-** that // (Aj) are (F) within your reach (Ac). **241-** That (Aj) you (S) will (Fml) aim (P) [to do (F/P) more (Ca) for yourselves (C) **242-** // and (Aj) expect (F/P) other (C) [to do (F/P)] less (Ca). **243-** // And (Aj) mine (S) is (F) a further expectation (Ca) **244-** // that (Aj) you (S) will (Fml) discover (P) a new sense of fairness and integrity (C); a new love (C) for country and for each other (C). **245-** A love (C) // that (Aj) will (Fml) turn (P) public servants (C) // and (Aj) government officials (C) into national champions (Ca) for change (C). **246-** A love (S) that (Aj) will (Fml) bring (P) back home (Ac) Liberians (C) scattered (F/P) far and wide (Ca) across (Aj) the globe (Ac) **-247-** many of them (C) highly (Ca) skilled (F/P), talented (F/P), // and (Aj) experienced (F/P) –[to join (F/P)] us (C) in building a New Liberia (Ac). **248-** The sooner (Aj) we all (S) merge (F/P) our energies (C) toward (Aj) cementing (F/P) these new norms and values (C), **249-** the sooner (Aj) we (S) will (Fml) transform (P) our beloved country (C) for the better (Ca). **250-** In (Ac) doing (F) so (Aj), we (S) must (Fms) also (Aj) learn (P) the virtue of patience (C), **251-** and (Aj) learn

(F/P) [to lower (F/P)] our expectations (C), **252-** for (Aj) I (S) do not (F) promise (P) you (C) quick fixes or miracles (Ca). **253-** Instead (Aj), my pledge to you (C) today (Ac) is (F) // that (Aj) my administration (C), with your help (C), **253-** will (Fml) make (P) steady (Ca) **254-** // and (Aj) deliberate (F/P) progress (C) towards (Aj) achieving (F/P) the hopes (C) and (Aj) aspirations (C) **255-** that (Aj) you (S) cherish (F/P) in your heart (Ac) for Mama Liberia (C). **256-** Let me (S) close (F/P) with these re-assuring words (C) from our National Anthem (Ac): “With God (C) above (Ac), our rights (C) [to prove (F/P)], We (S) will (Fml) over all prevail (Ac)!! Long live Liberia (C), happy land (Ca)! A home of glorious liberty (Ac), by God’s command (C).”**257-** May (Fml) God Almighty (S) bless (P) the works of our hands (C), **258-** and (Aj) save (P) the State (Ac).
259- I (S) THANK (F/P) YOU (C).