

**Remarks**  
**By**  
**Her Excellency Madam Marjon V. Kamara**  
**At The**  
**Commissioning Ceremonies**  
**Tuesday, April 5, 2016**

Madam President,  
Associate Justice and members of the Judiciary,  
Members of the Legislature,  
Fellow Cabinet Members,  
The Doyen and Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps,  
Heads of International Organizations,  
Members of the Clergy,  
Heads of Public Corporations,  
Heads of Political Parties,  
The Traditional Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia,  
Guests of Honorees,  
Family and Friends,  
Members of the Media,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of my fellow honorees, I am pleased to welcome you and to thank you sincerely for joining us in witnessing what has certainly been a defining moment for all of the distinguished honorees who were commissioned here today. Of course there have been many commissioning ceremonies held in this Auditorium, attended no doubt by many of you. The frequency of such ceremonies does not diminish the significance, which they hold for each and every individual whose call to service is celebrated in such a public manner. And so through photographs and framed commissions, which we will display proudly on the walls of our offices and residences, we will memorialize this event for posterity. It is truly an auspicious occasion and we are gratified by your presence.

Madam President, allow me to extend personal gratitude for the honor to be admitted into the Humane Order of African Redemption as Dame Great Band and Chancellor of the Orders. I know that this conferral rests on the attributes, which inspired confidence and first motivated you to appoint me to the portfolio of Minister of Foreign Affairs and Dean of the Cabinet. You have given me the uncommon privilege of returning to the Ministry from which I launched my professional career in 1974, as a youthful, agile, creative, energetic and curious young woman. With the passage of time, there has been some erosion along the edges but also been a strengthening of determination and persistence in applying the principle that "anything worth doing is worth doing well".

As members of your Cabinet, we are all driven in our work by this same or a similar principle, because this was a common admonition of Liberian parents of the day. Many of us have served in your administration through both terms; the former Minister of Information, and in different portfolios. Others, such as myself, are relatively new to the Cabinet and to the positions to which we have recently been appointed. For all of the honorees today, the Executive Commissions which we have received from your hand represent a reaffirmation of your confidence in us and

also your conviction that we will execute the responsibilities of our respective portfolios with unwavering dedication to duty, commitment to achieving agreed objectives within timelines and with the highest degree of integrity.

Madam President, we are grateful for the honour and humbled by your selection of us from among many compatriots, to work closely with you in the formulation and implementation of policies aimed at transforming the country and the lives of its people. We are indeed proud to be part of your team for the revitalization and restoration of basic infrastructure and services, the effective management and use of our resources for the benefit of all of our peoples and for the strengthening of national institutions which protect the rights of Liberians and serve as guardians of the principles of good governance.

The international community, of which our small country is an active part, has recently adopted an agenda for the eradication of poverty and upliftment of the poorest across the globe over the next fifteen years. Like all members of this global family, we must take ownership of the seventeen goals enshrined in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, as we do the AU's Agenda 2063 and our own Vision 2030. They all aim at bringing our people to higher standard of living. We should therefore all engage in a genuine national effort to transform our country through their implementation. These agendas hold the promise of reducing the disparities and inequalities which create fertile grounds for strife and conflict in societies. Preservation of our cherished peace and security in Liberia demands that we pay keen attention to these issues.

The global community has agreed that strong and inclusive leadership is an indispensable driver of development. You, Madam President, have provided strong and inspiring leadership, sound and progressive policies which enabled Liberia to register significant improvements in our political, legal and economic systems. But, by your own candid admission, there is still much to be done to alleviate poverty amongst our people. Despite the setbacks and serious economic challenges which our nation faces at present, we remain confident in your ability and resolve to steer the country on the path towards economic prosperity. And we commit today, to you, to work in a concerted manner as members of the Cabinet to implement the prioritized actions agreed under our respective portfolios for the common good.

I have had the opportunity over the last six years of my assignment in New York, to appreciate the goodwill which Liberia continues to enjoy in the international community. In my short stay here, for the past two months, this conclusion is being validated through my meetings with members of the diplomatic and consular corps. Foreign policy which you have pursued consistently, Madam President, of building strong partnerships at the regional and international level has succeeded in restoring Liberia's image and credibility. It has also helped to attract investment, although global economic developments have negatively impacted the investment climate. In thanking the members of the diplomatic and consular corps for their contributions to the wholesome and mutually beneficially relationships developed with Liberia, we, the members of your Cabinet team commit to do our share in nurturing the relationships with our development partners. We undertake to do even better in utilizing effectively assistance provided by our partners and responding expeditiously to offers for collaboration especially in priority areas identified in the Agenda for Transformation.

The soloist and his group have reminded honorees, in his excellent selection today, that we have a charge to keep. To whom much is given, much is expected. We, your teammates in the Cabinet, commit to carry out our individual and shared responsibilities with dedication; to consult more and to coordinate better among ourselves. We remain mindful of our accountabilities: first to you to prove worthy of the trust reposed in us; second, to our fellow Liberians to serve with

integrity, maintaining focus on the national interests; and, third, to our Creator who has made it all possible, providing the opportunities for us to render service to our country.

We reserve our deepest gratitude for our families here and abroad for their support which encourages us day-by-day; and their patience and understanding when our assignments constrain us to be away for many hours, days and weeks. We thank them also for their prayers, which sustain us in all that we do. Many of our friends here today have become family in practical terms. They are good listeners and sounding boards for our joys and frustrations. Indeed, they lift our morale, sometimes with a mixture of spirits after we have received a thorough bashing by any one of our local radio commentators. We ask them to continue to accompany us on this journey of service.

Finally, to my fellow honorees, I pass on these words of inspiration shared with me by a high school classmate. It goes like this: "Today, may there be peace within. May you trust that you are exactly where you are meant to be; May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born in yourself and others. May you use the gifts that you have received and pass on the love that has been given to you; May you be content with yourself just the way you are. Let this knowledge settle into your bones, and allow yourself the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love."

Madam, we accept the baton handed to us and we ask God's blessings to see us to the finish line.

I thank you.