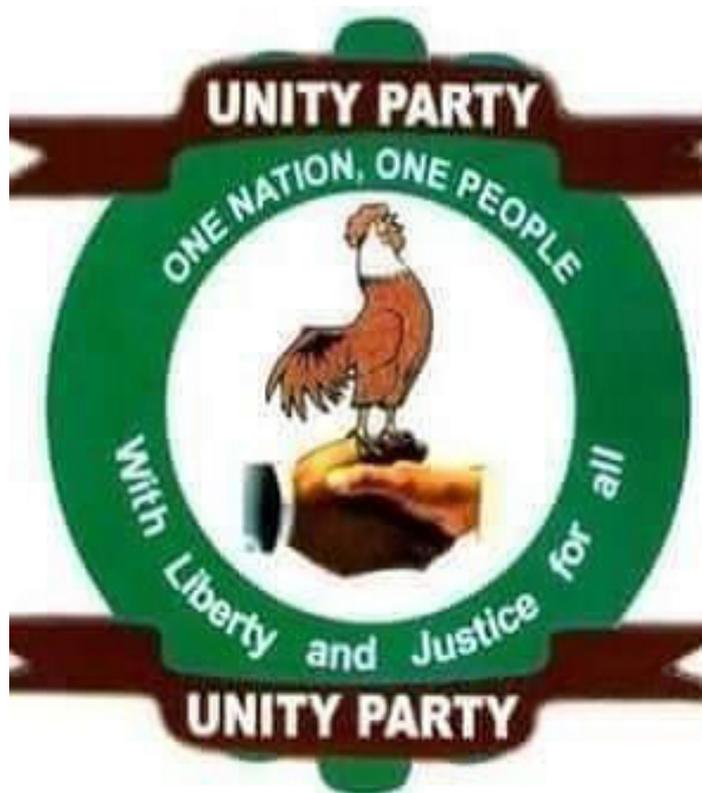

UNITY PARTY PLATFORM

CONSOLIDATING THE GAINS AND BUILDING A BETTER LIBERIA

2017

A PLATFORM OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE



**Ambassador Joseph Nyuma Boakai & Hon. Emmanuel J. Nuquay's
Contract with the Liberian People
For Effective, Efficient, and Good Governance**

Think LIBERIA, Love LIBERIA, Build LIBERIA

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THE LIBERIA WE WANT

PREAMBLE

Towards Elections 2017, the Unity Party has put together this Platform. It presents our Vision for our country and the Core Values that will guide our relationship with our people, and the work we will do after the good people of Liberia give us mandate. It defines our hopes and aspirations for our people and offers our proposed national programs for maintaining our hard-won peace, reinvigorating shared economic growth and development, and moving our country forward over the next six years (2018 - 2024).

Our Party believes much has been achieved in the past eleven years under our leadership. Liberia has reclaimed its prominent place in the community of nations, achieved peace and stability and laid the foundation for economic restoration, growth and development. Overall, indeed, Liberia is moving in the right direction. Yet we are the first to admit that we are not yet “out of the woods” of low social capital, a struggling economy and under-development. Our problems are many and varied; some are deep-seated, with their underlying causes deeply rooted in outdated structures that are no longer conform with the imperatives of modern development models. There is therefore much work to be done (as quickly as possible) to fast-track our country’s progress in all sectors.

Towards this end, we must build on the gains made and lessons learned from the past eleven years. We must now aspire to build a better future and improve the quality of life of our people—**all our people, not just a few**. We remain confident that working together as one people, we can accomplish this national task. We believe in the resilience of the Liberian people. And we are convinced of our individual and collective capacities for national renewal and our ability to take a quantum leap in sustainable human development for the good of all our people.

To be sure, Liberians everywhere want better lives for themselves and their country; and Liberians deserve nothing but the best. With this platform, we as UP partisans, collaborating political parties, auxiliary groups, sympathizers and well-wishers do proclaim a Liberia where every citizen can achieve and actualize his or her potential; a Liberia where rule of law and civil liberties are guaranteed; a Liberia where accountability has no exception; a Liberia grounded in a merit-based system; a Liberia with functional institutions driven by participatory democracy; and a Liberia that prioritizes investments in human capital and public infrastructure. Essentially, the Liberia to which we aspire shall improve the wellbeing of all. Ambassador Joseph N. Boakai and Hon. Emmanuel Nuquay can help make the Liberia we envisage become a reality.

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The policies that underpin this platform require meaningful investments in public infrastructure such as road and energy/electricity as well as agriculture and human capital to guarantee economic growth and development. Our citizens shall enjoy the direct relationship between economic growth and access to improved school system, healthcare and reduction in poverty level. They shall also enjoy increase in literacy rates and benefit from the dividends of economic development, including an increment in life expectancy.

This platform maintains that the foundation upon which we can achieve the realization of all these people-centered goals is to collectively ***Think Liberia, Love Liberia, and Build Liberia.***

First, Think Liberia. We must challenge ourselves to think Liberia foremost in our national endeavors, and put our country and people's interest first above everything else. We must defiantly think our situations; that is, think outside of the conventional wisdom box. We must dream big, dare impossibilities, think beyond narrow interests, and think forward.

Second, Love Liberia. Love of country should transcend words and define all well-meaning leaderships. It should permeate every fabric of our society and be demonstrated in all aspects and at all levels of our national life. We must instill in ourselves a common resolve to fundamentally and qualitatively change the lives of our people. We must cultivate and exhibit the highest sense of patriotism in all that we do. Accordingly, loving Liberia must begin in families, local communities, and cut across schools, churches, mosques, sporting grounds, farms, marketplaces, offices, manufacturing plants, and every place where there are Liberians. Love is a mindset. Love is actionable. Love does not always take. Love gives. Love Liberia must give back to community and country.

Third, Build Liberia. We must build Liberia in the same manner as the contemporary developments we see evolving around us in Africa and in the world. We cannot just patch up, renovate and make do. It cannot just be business as usual---the old Liberian way. There should be standards, designs, and road-maps that are forward-looking; we must be purposeful and strategic in our thinking and actions. Development is about people and, as such, we must truly transform the quality of life of our people. We must develop rational human advancement programs and utilize the latest technologies and state-of the-arts in areas such as education, health, youth empowerment, communications and transportation, energy and the environment, agriculture and food security, and housing and human settlements. We must attend to the critical issues of power (electricity), clean pipe-borne water and roads without which private investments will not be attracted. We must transform our rural communities, rebuild trusting communities, contain the rapid rural-to-urban migration of our youthful

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population, and reinvent our towns and cities. We must accentuate science and technology in a manner that enhances and speeds up our national progress.

We must strive to have a critical mass of our best, talented and dedicated sons and daughters, old and young, who are willing to be creative in their thinking about Liberia; passionate and patriotic in their love for country; deliberate and purposeful in their actions to build Liberia; and committed enough to lead Liberia at this critical point. We must also build a strong middle class as we strive to empower the underserved. Anything less is unacceptable.

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PILLAR 1: ECONOMIC & SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Acceleration of economic and social infrastructural development is fundamental in building a productive economy and achieving sustainable development. Roads, railroads, seaports, telecommunication, electricity, etc. are key infrastructure supporting the productive sector of the economy. Their availability and quality will transform the lives of the Liberian people, impact multi-national, small and medium enterprises, and boost economic growth generally. Similarly, appropriate social infrastructure development to improve health care delivery, education and housing is crucial for manpower development and the improvement of the quality of life.

While some investment has been undertaken in infrastructure across the country in the past 12 years, significant challenges remain particularly in connecting the rest of the country.

The Unity Party-led government's infrastructural investment will focus on the followings to improve the livelihood of the people of Liberia:

Our Agenda

The JNB led-government will prioritize roads because road infrastructure is a major foundation for our social and economic growth and development. Roads support agriculture, linking farms to markets; roads facilitate health care delivery; roads promote access to education; roads are imperative for ensuring national security and regional integration. The emphasis of the government's plan over the next 6 years will include extension of road coverage, improvement in the quality of existing road infrastructure, institutional reform, diversification of transportation and linking roads to development programs.

1.1 Re-enforce Investment in Roads and Related Infrastructure

- **Commitment:** The JNB-led government will commit to the people of Liberia investment in roads and related infrastructure to transform Liberia into a more prosperous and inclusive nation that also measures up to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. At a minimum, 10 percent of the national budget will be apportioned to roads as of the first year of the JNB Administration and incrementally upgraded to attain 20 percent in Year 4.
- **Coverage:** Government will develop and implement a Road Sector Development Program that will establish and upgrade secondary and feeder road networks needed to support a diversified agriculture-based economy, which accentuates production in the various food value chains and enhance farmers' access to local markets.

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- All 15 county capitals will be connected with all-weather roads including paved highways and bridges.
- Working with international partners and institutions, Liberia's road network with neighboring states will be developed and modernized in conformity with standards of the Trans -West Africa Coastal highway to ease the movement of Liberians in the region and boost trade with ECOWAS countries.
- **Institutional Reform:** The role and structure of the Ministry of Public Works shall be reviewed to ensure that they are consistent with contemporary practice and support the local industry. The timeworn idea of a grand Ministry of Public Works of the 1950's and 1960's that intervenes directly in all road matters is no longer viable. A national road maintenance program that included two training institutions for road maintenance technicians has long faded away. Thus, an efficient, more purposeful road authority that will focus on planning as well as design and supervision matters is desirable.
- Towards this end, matters involving construction and maintenance of roads will be structured to involve the effective participation of the private sector and community groups. To provide initial support to the development and growth of the local road construction industry, some equipment currently owned by the Ministry of Public Works will be pooled and used as a nucleus of an Equipment Leasing Outfit to support the engagement of Liberia engineering and construction companies partaking in tenders. We will assist in strengthening the capacity of our local engineers to play an active part in our road building and maintenance contracts, thus reducing our reliance on foreign-owned construction firms.
- In addition to developing the local industry, our investment in roads will be linked to developing Liberian expertise. Every investment will have a manpower development component to transfer knowledge and provide scholarship for the training of road engineers.
- **Finance:** In addition to increase in the national budget, government will earnestly engage donors and development partners to solicit their financial commitment to a long-term road sector development program. Consistent with our plan to ensure effective maintenance of the entire road network, we will encourage the

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establishment of a highway toll system to be administered within the context of the road fund. Within this context, the Act establishing the Road Fund will be revisited to ensure that it conforms to the standard and character of a genuine new-generation road maintenance fund, which shall be operated outside the purview of a government ministry or agency.

- **Diversification:** The transport sub-sector will be diversified to encourage the re-establishment of domestic air transport, establish inland water transport and rail as viable alternatives to road transport. Domestic airfields will be rehabilitated and/or re-established where needed in every county with a robust maintenance program and with the requisite navigational aids. Investments will be made at major seaports to facilitate commercial services for passengers and cargo. Government will avail incentives to private entities that may desire to invest in air, water and rail transport in Liberia.

1.2 Improve Air and Sea Ports

- Our government will incrementally move on with the expansion and modernization of the RIA in all its dimensions (runway, terminals, cargo handling, security, towers, lighting, etc.). In the long-term our plan is to transform the RIA area into a modern airport city. Similarly, our government will undertake the renovation of existing domestic airstrips and develop additional facilities to ease travel around the country;
- Continue the development of the National Port Authority (NPA) by improving not only the facilities at the Freeport of Monrovia but also other ports. We shall also make the following investments in our seaport facilities:
 - Develop inland ports to improve the movement of goods in country;
 - Develop transshipment capabilities to improve the efficiency of our ports, build new markets, and create jobs;

1.3 Develop Water/Sea Transport

Despite the existence of over 300 miles of coastline and the abundance of rivers traversing the country, we are yet to develop a water transport system that would serve the people as an alternative to road travel and boost tourism. The Unity Party Government will take appropriate measures as follows to exploit our water ways to enhance travel across the country:

- Establish and operate a passenger/cargo ferry transportation system. Such enterprise will be achieved through the attraction of private investment, a joint

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venture (public-private partnership) arrangement or through bilateral assistance arrangement with donors.

- Provide incentives to encourage private investment in water transport as an alternative means for moving goods.

1.4 Improve Public Schools and Healthcare Facilities

Developing the quality of our human resources will require improving facilities that provide training and healthcare services. In this regard, we will:

- Renovate and equip existing school buildings and hospital facilities to enhance their qualities.
- Construct new school buildings and healthcare facilities where they are needed to facilitate conducive learning environment and healthcare delivery to our people.

1.5 Boost Energy Generation and Distribution

Energy availability remains a constraint to the development of the industrial potential of our economy. Its limited supply has not only resulted to an exorbitantly higher cost of electricity in the country but also higher cost of domestic production in doing business. As such, government has granted tax waivers in many instances as a way of appeasing businesses to invest in the energy sector, specifically power generation. Our government shall increase the production, transmission and distribution of electricity, and expand access to a larger proportion of the population.

In addition to the current regional efforts through the CLSG and cross-border initiatives, we shall:

- Create the environment to encourage private-sector investments into the industry to expand production and distribution, and increase access at affordable cost.
- Provide incentives to facilitate domestic and international private-sector investments to develop off-grid mini-hydro plants that will generate energy to supply rural communities.
- Facilitate investments in renewable energy solutions to address constraints that inhibit the generation, transmission and distribution of energy at the household and industrial levels.

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1.6 Improve Access to Public Transportation

Work with the private sector to improve public transportation through the following actions:

- Provide incentives that will attract investments to facilitate public transport services.
- Invest in public transport.

1.7 Utilize National Fiber-backbone Infrastructure

Consolidate investment and utilize the existing fiber optic cable as a core national infrastructure to facilitate broadband connectivity for affordable and reliable access for e-healthcare, e-commerce, education (distance learning) and e-government programs.

- Develop national ICT backbone using fiber technology to connect all regions in Liberia to cover a total length of 2,366km.
- Complete the Digital Migration Platform to enhance national television and radio broadcast across Liberia.

PILLAR 2: AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Many Liberians depend on agriculture for a living. About 70% of rural households are involved in the sector. Importation of rice, which is our national staple, cost millions of US dollars annually. While government has made progress in the sector, low productivity and other structural constraints remain.

Our Agenda

Addressing these constraints and the issue of food security, and eventually food sovereignty, will be our priority. Our agenda will promote productivity in the sector, food security for Liberians, training and employment and integrate agriculture and livestock in a market-oriented economy and generate income generation for all producers, especially rural farmers. We shall address these needs by taking the following actions: The Unity Party government will seek to transform our agriculture sector as follows:

2.1 Enhance Agricultural Productivity and Food Security

- **Comparative Advantage:** Targeting the production of specific crops in certain regions or zones of the country where there is comparative advantage. To this

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end, a preliminary assessment will be needed to develop a master plan and needed training for zoning agricultural activities throughout the country. These agriculture zones will be set up from acquired land banks across the country based on soil patterns to enhance agricultural productivity.

- **Agriculture as Business:** First and foremost, we shall seek to change the perception of our people to see agriculture not only from the lenses of subsistence but also from the lenses of business. This will enhance productivity and commercialization.
- **Education:** Provide hands-on training and retraining, where necessary, in all aspects of agriculture and at all levels with a view to having a cadre of trained human resources for manning modern, commercial agricultural businesses along the entire food value chain (production, preservation, storage, processing, packaging, branding, merchandizing, transportation and marketing).
- **Modernization:** Promote mechanization of the entire food value chain, to transform it from subsistence agriculture into a business. Mechanization will displace many smallholder farmers from production aspect, hence the need to develop alternative livelihoods by redeploying them in aggregating, processing, packaging, branding and marketing activities.
- **Irrigation:** Develop a national irrigation program in support of large scale food production schemes where smallholder farmers are organized around a cooperative-type set-up for shared ownership of farm and field equipment and to operate large contiguous farms within a “project”.
- **Specialization:** Promote the specialization of Liberian farmers instead of having all farmers “doing” a little of everything. Specialization should be in accordance with the comparative advantage that each area or region has for the specific farming operation.
- **Diversification:** Diversify Liberian agriculture so that smallholder farmers are facilitated by technological break-through, by changes in consumer demand or in government policy or in trade arrangements, and by the development of irrigation, roads, and other infrastructures. This will ensure a shift from the regional dominance of one cropping system to regional production of many crops by many specialized producers.

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- Promote out-grower schemes with existing agricultural concessions to enable communities in concession areas share in the knowledge and wealth of concessions.
- Promote and strengthen tree crop production to expand country's export capacity and foreign exchange earnings.
- Provide incentive on all agriculture inputs and machinery.
- Develop and implement Wetland Agricultural Development Programs (WADP) to promote mass production of the country staple.
- Promote and Support Livestock Production and Fishery to reduce the country's dependence on importation of livestock and livestock products.
- Promote and Strengthen Peri-urban Agriculture to create alternative income sources.

2.2 Increase Access to Finance for Agricultural Development

- Provide adequate funding to the sector in line with the Maputo Declaration to sustain transforming agriculture into the key engine for economic growth and development. National resources will be supplemented by mobilized external resources.
- Re-establish the Agriculture Investment Bank to guarantee value-chain financing across the Sector.
- Support the creation of specialized facilities at designated commercial banks for agriculture credits.

2.3 Improve Provision of Agricultural Extension Services

- Improve extension services to support farmers and establish agricultural demonstration sites at district levels to enhance knowledge and technology transfers.
- Support the Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI) as the premiere institute for research in the Agricultural Sector. Develop a multiyear program for training its scientists at renowned institutions and provide adequate budgetary support for CARI to backstop the Ministry of Agriculture and its implementing partners.
- Grant support to the College of Agriculture and Forestry (UL) and other institutions committed to innovative practices and skills for the transformation of the sector.

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2.4 Develop Marketing Channels for Agricultural Produce

- Revitalize LMPC and other agriculture cooperatives to ensure a ready-buyer of produce.
- Develop value-chains to ensure preservation facilities of food crop and create access to market.

2.5 Fishery

Liberia has 350 miles of an unbroken coastline and a rich fauna of fishery resources that are of high value and demand in the world market. Its continental shelf averages 34 miles in width and has a large fishing ground of over 70,000 square miles. The country is traversed by more than 1500Km of rivers and a host of tributaries and low lands, which provide an ideal opportunity for aquaculture development as well. Liberia also has two large lakes (lagoon) and many artificial lakes which are endowed with rich aquatic fauna. The Marine fisheries potential of the country is estimated at 126,000 metric tons. This potential remains essentially untapped. Liberia is a net importer of fresh and frozen fish. The sector's contribution to GDP is 3%.

Our Agenda

Our intervention in this crucial sector will be to first address the institutional problems and then to focus on the multitude of constraints. Our action points will include the following:

- Grant full institutional autonomy to the Bureau of National Fisheries.
- Revisit Liberia's limits to its territorial waters with the view to extending its Exclusive Economic Zone and delineating our boundaries with our neighboring states.
- Collaborate with international partners such as the European Union and the World Bank to develop a program for effectively managing Liberia's EEZ to police illegal fishing activities and to direct fishing resources towards benefiting the general population.
- Map out a program for institutional capacity development at the autonomous Bureau. This will include training of personnel at the technical, operational and legal levels to effectively man the bureau and manage the sector.
- Developing a program for provision of basic infrastructures such as fish landing and handling facilities, cold storages, fish markets, and processing at selected locations to enhance value added to fish product.

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- Developing a comprehensive program for supporting artisanal fishing to transform the subsector from subsistence fishing to commercial fishing.
- Promote the involvement of Liberians in fishing by providing access to finance and credit and providing targeted protection against foreign fishing entities that have the tendency of dumping fish on the Liberian market.

2.6 Ensure Optimal Utilization of Forestry and Natural Resources

Forestry and natural resources have for years been major contributors to the Liberian economy and part of our national heritage. However, the war years have particularly undermined their management and optimal utilization. The UP government will address the problems in these sectors to ensure sustainability by undertaking the following:

- Conserve national parks, protected areas, natural and cultural authority reserves.
- Ensure sustainable management of forest and natural resources to improve livelihood, reduce conflict and poverty.
- Hold concessionaires accountable to deliver on the terms of the agreements.
- Ensure Liberian companies have fair chance of competing for concession agreements.
- Pursue decentralization emphasizing participation of local communities in resource management.

2.7 Forestry

The importance of Liberia's rich forests, which make up around 43% of West Africa's remaining rainforests, should not be underestimated. The country possesses the largest cover of the tropical rain forest in the sub region. Over the years, these forests have provided important social and economic security to local communities that depend on these landscapes for their culture, sustenance, and even survival.

Our Agenda

Recognizing the importance of Liberia's rich forests to local communities, the UP-led government's forest management policy will include:

- Comprehensive stock taking of the country's forest resources and its institutional management system.
- Conducting a social -economic and environmental impact assessment on the sector.

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- Integrating results from such an assessment into the government’s forest use and management system.
- Reforming the country’s land sector to enhance forest use and management in a sustainable way, and support peace at both at local and national levels.
- Tapping Liberia’s rich forest resources in a sustainable and democratic manner with a view to furthering strides already being made in the areas of development, poverty-reduction, peace, and national integration.
- Strengthening conservation-related guidelines and approaches to avoid a lopsided management and utilization of the country’s forest resource.
- Conserve national parks, protected areas, natural and cultural authority reserves
- Hold concessionaires accountable to deliver on the terms of the agreements
- Ensure Liberian companies have fair chance of competing for concession agreements.
- Pursue decentralization emphasizing participation of local communities in resource management.

2.8 Natural resources

Liberia is quite endowed in natural resources including iron ore, gold, diamond, suitable agricultural soil, ground and surface water with large hydroelectric power potentials, and probably oil and gas. Known mineral deposits exist while there are potentials for new discoveries. However, harnessing this potential has been undermined by challenges.

Our Agenda

To adequately address these anomalies in the sectors and make our natural resources the backbones for national economic and social development, the Unity Party led-government will focus the following:

- Improve natural resource governance by making fundamental changes in legislations, national institutional framework and building our administrative and management capacities to meet emerging demands.
- Conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the nation’s mineral resources by enhancing the effective capacity of resource management institutions and investing adequately in comprehensive national programs of topographic mapping, geological and hydrological surveys.

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- Discern from best practices to establish a program, including artisanal cooperatives, to regulate and provide technical assistance to small scale and artisanal miners.
- Ensure that future development of natural resources will be done with a pronounced emphasis on imparting local content by such means as involving host communities and Liberian businesses, as much as possible, in all aspects of extractive operations awarded concessions to exploit our natural resources.
- Promote a culture of conservation amongst Liberians to exercise caution in the exploitation of nature and natural resources with a view to balancing the benefits of livelihood with reaping commercial returns.
- Diversify and strengthen our energy resources management programs to quantify and harness not only hydroelectric power, but also solar, wind and biomass energy.
- With the creation of the Land Authority, to restructure the Ministry of Lands, Mines & Energy to make autonomous the Energy Department, as well as the Liberian Cartographic Service, the Liberian Geological Survey, and the Liberian Hydrological Survey as they were originally conceived.
- Build the capacity of the National Bureau of Concessions (NBC) to ensure that mining companies will adhere to internationally accepted standards of mining, occupational, environmental and health standards.

2.9 Land Governance

Land is the most important economic asset we have as a country. Land matters have been among the most critical issues in our country in recent times. In fact, many analysts and observers of Liberia's land situation believe that if Liberia were to regress into another conflict, land issues would be the primary cause.

Our Agenda

Effective land governance is going to be the cornerstone of our land rights program. Accordingly, we intend to improve on what has been achieved in this area by ensuring that all Liberian citizens are entitled to:

- Equitable land rights, irrespective of ethnic background, sex, creed, place of origin, political opinion, or physical ability.
- Equal protection of their land rights, irrespective of whether they live in rural areas or in urban areas, and irrespective of whether they need to use the land for subsistence or commercial agriculture; or for residential, commercial, industrial or recreational purposes.

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- Land ownership, whether as individuals, households or in association with others, whether in conventional or customary communities and whether in urban or rural areas.
- Entitled to a Deed which clearly defines and demarcates the parcel of land, and one that is duly registered and properly recorded in formats to be prescribed by Law.

Our government will also:

- Undertake a comprehensive review of the Draft Land Rights Act through a consultative process to ensure that the Act fully addresses the aspirations and hopes of Liberians on land issues.
- Put in place an effective and efficient Land Administration and Management system to ensure a productive Land Tenure System.
- Allocate adequate funds within the national budget to recruit, train and appoint good talents in the requisite disciplines of land administration and management.
- Decentralize the national institutional framework for land administration and management to meet the needs of communities across the country.
- Prepare a framework that facilitates the processes of integrating new needs into traditionally organized and accepted systems without compromising equity or disturbing the fundamental security these systems provide.

2.10 Promote Environmental Protection, Climate-Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Environmental protection is critical for the survival of Liberians and humanity. Government will therefore remain sensitive to the issue of environmental protection and take appropriate actions in this regard. We will take the following steps:

- Implement all international agreements that Liberia has committed to on climate change.
- Promote forest and bio-diversity conservation.
- Develop national mitigation actions (NAMA) to address climate change effects.
- Develop a national adaptation plan (NAP) to protect coastal areas.

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PILLAR 3: MACROECONOMIC STABILITY AND SOCIAL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We subscribe to Vision 2030 in which Liberia aspires to become a developmental state. We will also endeavor to achieve a middle-income status. Additionally, we subscribe to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Africa Agenda for Action 2063. While we acknowledge that the dream to attain a developmental state within the next thirteen years is a tall order, we are determined to commence working towards this ultimate mission against all odds.

Our Agenda

The Unity Party government will attend the economy and its related issues based on shared economic growth and development of our country as follows:

- **Free Enterprise System:** We will continue to subscribe to the free, competitive private enterprise system while paying attention to social economic justice and political freedom for all.
- **Job Creation:** We will seek to create jobs for our people by pursuing pro-poor and pro-growth economic policies and implementing programs underpinned by vigorous training, public sector investments, value-addition chains in the extractive industries, and strengthened private sector participation in the real sectors.
- **Macro-economic policy formulation and management environment:** We shall rationalize the role and size of the government, strengthen policy formulation capacity, planning and monitoring capabilities, and regulatory functions, as well as spin-off many government functions best performed outside of government to private sector entities.
- **Shared, inclusive growth:** We shall work to reduce poverty by raising production through widespread initiatives and engagement of all Liberians, across the country and, in all sectors that are willing and committed to work.
- **Knowledge based-economy:** We will seek to transition from a concession-based economy to a knowledge-based economy. As such, we shall re-orientate our education and training programs to place premium on mathematics, science, and technology.
- **Diversified economy:** We shall diversify the economy by employing policies and programs to move from total dependence on extraction of primary commodities - rubber and iron ore. While we will promote the creation of value addition for

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natural resources, we will prioritize agriculture, particularly food production in the diversification of the economy.

- **Incentive code:** We will revisit and strengthen our investment incentives code to attract and encourage meaningful private sector investments in the country, especially in the established economic corridors.
- **Power and roads:** To support diversification of the economy, we shall strengthen and expand infrastructures, especially power (electricity) and the road network.
- **Price controls and monopolies:** While it is understandable that the market will shape prices, government will protect consumers against blatant exploitation by the commercial and distributive industry. There will be no allowance for monopolies.
- **The SDGs and the Africa Agenda for Action 2063:** Our national development agenda is grounded on our commitment to implement both regional and international development programmes. Hence we will domesticate the SDGs and the Africa Agenda for Action 2063.
- **Wage rates:** We will maintain scientifically derived minimum wage rates to protect our working people from unfair and unscrupulous conduct of employers.
 - Employ public funding to address binding constraints by investing in road construction and other critical infrastructure to facilitate economic growth
 - Empower the Liberian Business Community to play a central-role in the development of our economy

3.1 Ensure Prudent Fiscal Management

Fiscal pressures are expected to be higher in 2017 and onwards to 2018. Upturn in the concession operations and most entities generating revenues for government are not very likely. Further, considering the usual wait-and-see attitude associated with the pending elections, many activities will be on hold for the rest of 2017.

Our Agenda

Going forward, a Joseph Boakai-led Unity Party will endeavor to adopt measures to ensure that fiscal policy will be largely driven towards influencing economic growth. Our fiscal measures will be paralleled to our monetary policy and be aimed at encouraging investment, boosting employment, providing targeted fiscal stimuli, and improving public services that will improve the standard of living of all our people.

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The following strategic actions will characterize our fiscal policy:

- Build and maintain a balance between total revenue intake and total expenditures, reconciling and adjusting the accounts on cash basis at the end of each semester. Balanced budget implies that revenue estimates as well as sources must be evidence based.
- Restructure budgeting in government to radically shift resources from personnel services and other recurrent expenditures to programs and projects that impact directly the delivery of services such as education, health, food security, water and sanitation and roads.
- Support the development of a much smaller public sector that will seriously work towards spinning off to Liberian entrepreneurs some activities in government that could best be carried out by the private sector. This will mean retraining and redeploying people from the public sector to the private sector.
- Convert the expenditure segment of the government budget to a more poignant result-oriented plan, which exacts outputs for every deliverable and enhances/compels accountability from the top to the bottom.
- Reform our taxing policy to be more investment and production friendly. The starting point is to convert and consolidate indirect taxes on inputs to sales tax, effectively postponing payment of indirect taxes on inputs (any material requiring further processing before consumption or final utilization) from production to the point of sale.
- Provide targeted fiscal stimuli to engender activities in food crop production, fisheries, tourisms and other sub-sectors in which ordinary Liberians are engaged and need a minimal of support to succeed in business.
- In addition to the PPCC requirements and process, pursue a program to strengthen the engagements of contracts and such other second parties on other forms of providing goods and services to the government and its auxiliaries to prevent either non- or poor performance. Toward this end, Government will insist on having hired contractors pre-finance projects; it will also employ a more vigorous multiple certification of projects by the GAC, beneficiary entities, communities, relevant national professional bodies and civil society, to ensure that contracted projects as fully and satisfactorily completed prior to payment to the contractor.

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- Rationalize public sector spending to reduce recurrent expenditure and improve expenditure on capital investment.
- Restructure public sector compensations to ensure equity in income distribution; (*Equal pay for equal work*).
- Improve revenue administration to increase efficiency in tax collection and enhance delivery of basic social services
- Improve the management and utilization of contracted loans to reduce the risk of debt distress.

3.2 Guarantee Stable Monetary Policy Environment

Liberia has had a long history of a dual currency regime with the U.S. Dollar serving a legal tender status. The economy is heavily dollarized with the U.S. Dollar estimated to account for about 90 percent of money supply. This has effectively left the country with limited control over monetary policy.

Our Agenda

Given Liberia's long history of a dual currency regime, an abrupt de-dollarization with premature removal of legal tender status of the U.S. Dollar would be risky because dollarization is pervasive in Liberia. A Joe Boakai administration will therefore adopt a phased approach (gradual) to de-dollarization that is market-driven subject to the alleviation of the following conditions:

- A stable political and socio-economic environment-one that will alleviate poor domestic manufacturing industries and weak economic infrastructures, ranging from lack of good road network to affordable and accessible power supply-all variables that continue to drive the country's under performance in real sector productivity.
- Diversification of the productive sector. The reliance on iron ore and rubber has weakened the economy. The diversification program should focus on import substitution, particularly in the agriculture sector, featuring various food value chains.
- Reinforce the credibility of macroeconomic policies, particularly monetary policies.

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The new UP administration would also consider the following interim options to achieve de-dollarization:

- (i) Develop a domestic financial market by introducing domestic currency – denominated securities.
 - (ii) Improve the quality and increase the denomination of Liberian Dollar bank notes.
 - (iii) Increase the use of the Liberian Dollars as a unit of account. (The law regarding this is not fully honored).
 - (iv) Use Liberian Dollars in more government transactions (Most government revenues are currently collected in U.S. Dollars and most government expenditures are denominated in U. S. Dollars, including civil servants’ salary). This must stop.
 - (v) Encourage use of local currency (Liberian Dollars) for payments for goods and services within the country.
 - (vi) Take actions to improve the country’s balance of payment.
- Develop and implement roadmap to eliminate the negative effects of the dual currency.
 - Review the country’s monetary policy framework and introduce instruments to guide monetary policy implementation.
 - Ensure that commercial banks improve lending terms (Interest rate & Repayment period) for businesses.

3.3 Implement Structural Reforms that Spur Pro-Poor Economic Growth

- Diversify the economy by supporting manufacturing in the productive sector;
- Strengthen productivity of our traditional cash crops—coffee, cocoa, sugarcane, oil palm, etc., and introduce manufacturing to expand job creation in the private sector;
- Institute policies that encourage investors in our fishery sector to establish processing plants in the country for processing our high-quality fish species for export and domestic consumption
- Exploit the potential of the tourism sector and develop it not only to provide jobs for our youthful population but also attract foreign exchange to the country

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3.4 Strengthen Public Financial Management to Ensure Optimal Resource Utilization

- Strengthen oversight of state-owned enterprises (SoEs), and assess the viability of these institutions; where necessary, privatize inefficient SoEs.
- Implement the Treasury Single Account (TSA) system to strengthen cash management in the public sector.
- Reform the economy and strengthen the private sectors to enhance resource generation.
- Streamline and rigorously enforce public procurement law and regulations to ensure efficient utilization of public resource.

3.5 Revitalize and Increase Support to the Manufacturing Sector of the Economy

- Support manufacturing to enable us reap the dividends of regional and international trade agreements.
- Provide incentives for attracting investment in fishery to expand the sources of economic growth.
- Encourage extractive companies into local value addition of their output to expand export and job opportunities for our population.
- Establish industrial production areas to enhance the setup of special economic zones (SEZs).
- Promote and facilitate joint-venture between Liberian and international firms.
- Promote Liberianization by granting incentives to Liberian businesses to make them competitive.

3.6 Promote and Monetize the Development of Tourism and our Cultural Heritage

The landscape of Liberia remains largely untapped and underdeveloped, yet it maintains a natural beauty for a thriving tourism industry.

Our Agenda

The Unity Party Government will promote tourism by undertaking the following:

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- Appointing a National Tourism and Culture Commission of Liberia within 100 days of the new administration to develop a robust plan for tourism and culture (covering contemporary art, music and film).
- Enacting into law a coherent policy to promote the development and preservation of Liberian tourism. The new policy will mandate the Ministry of Internal Affairs and county administrations to collaborate with the newly established Commission in rehabilitating old cultural and historic landmarks and sites--churches, schools, traditional shrines (Poro and Sande educational institutions) in the 15 counties.
- Developing a national program for the beautification of the Liberian landscape, culture and tourism sector. Under the beautification plan of the program, the Commission will collaborate with the 15 county administrations to encourage landscaping with Liberian flora in public places, cities, towns and villages. The development of historic sites, beaches, parks and riverfronts will be done through a 10 year *lend-lease* agreement between the GoL and a multinational development/investment group.
- Proposing Funding Streams to include:
 - 1) A *lend-lease* agreement between GoL and a global investment group
 - 2) GoL investment of \$200 million
 - 3) Matching contributions— (bilateral and multilateral development organizations)
 - 4) GoL Budgetary allotment
 - 5) County Community Development Funds
 - 6) Hotel and restaurant investors
- Invest in the tourism industry (ecotourism), and find ways to promote Liberian indigenous culture as a means of creating jobs for our youthful population.
- Provide incentives to attract investment in tourism to expand the sources of economic growth.
- Preserve and name cultural landscapes or heritage sites to support tourism development and provide incentives for Liberians and foreign investors interested in the tourism industry.
- Develop the needed infrastructure to create access to important tourism sites to enhance growth in the sector.

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Culture

Liberia has and needs to appreciate its collective cultural identity. The process of consolidating such a cultural identity begins with conducting research and compiling data on all aspects of the cultures of Liberians that are common to all ethnic groups. There is also the challenge to preserve certain cultural practices which have existed for centuries and are integral to our indigenous life.

Our Agenda

To attend to our cultural situation and challenges, the Unity Party will endeavor to undertake the following strategic actions:

- **Research and publish Materials on Liberian Culture:** The government will support cultural research through the Civic Engagement and National Visioning mandate of the Governance Commission to conduct research and compile data on positive aspects of the cultural, traditional and social practices of Liberians that are common to all ethnic groups as well as unique to certain groups. The goal is to publish materials on various aspects of Liberian Culture.
- **Include Liberian Culture in Curriculum:** Teach Liberian culture in elementary and junior high schools as parts of our national educational curriculum. When knowledge of our collective culture is researched, compiled and taught at these levels in our schools, it will sustain peace, social cohesion and stability and cultivate a sense of national pride and oneness in our people.
- **Promote Liberian Folklores:** We will research, compile and preserve our folklores and teach them in schools.
- **Legislate and Teach Liberian Languages in School:** We will adopt an indigenous national language and start a national conversation around the need to build a consensus on teaching of one (1) dominant language within a county as part of the educational curriculum. The goal is to encourage students who migrate to those areas to understand and speak at least the dominant language in the county in which they reside. This concept is supported by the fact that during the civil war, many people were killed simply because they were not able to speak the local language. The Ministry of Education, Ministry of Internal Affairs, and Governance Commission should collaborate in leading this process.
- **Integrate Herbal Medicine into Health Services:** Commission the Ministry of Health to undertake research and integrate complimentary medicine into its

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structure, practices and operational mechanisms. Also, establish an herbal medicine research and resource center to conduct research into traditional medicine as well as provide “*approved*” herbal medical services.

3.7 Prioritize Job Creation Aligned with Market Needs for our Youthful Population

The Unity Party government will ensure an enabling environment to spur job creation. While investment in public infrastructure and diversification of the economy shall contribute to job creation, we will accompany these measures with the following actions:

- Work toward the creation of additional jobs with livable income in the coming years.
- Evolve an integrated national job creation policy/program and establish a procedure for all companies and businesses operating in Liberia to adhere to the provisions of the new policy.
- Convene a national conference on job creation with key stakeholders to explore the option of expanding their capacity to create new jobs.
- Get the Ministries of Labor, Commerce, Finance and Development Planning to collaborate in finding lasting solutions to structural, frictional and cyclical unemployment challenges which often ultimately lead to chronic underemployment.
- Specifically improve the role of the Ministry of Labor in coordinating employment policies across all sectors (INGOs, concession areas, private sector and related areas) where preferences will be given to qualified Liberians.
- Create a jobs database to establish an accurate count of livable jobs (earned income) in the country and increase that number considerably.
- Identify 600 small and medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) from Liberia’s 15 counties and Liberian-owned businesses in the Diaspora, to enroll in the new job creation program and private sector growth over the next six years.

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- Review the curriculum and standard operating procedure (SOP) of all vocational training institutes and sign an agreement for job placement of their graduates with the new SMEs.
- Expand *Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET)* opportunities nationwide to provide technical and vocational education that will enable many Liberians to have employable skills.
- Prevent foreigners from occupying jobs that are exclusively for Liberians by law and expand and strengthen the Liberianization policy to include other jobs and sectors.
- Encourage entrepreneurship and innovation as a way of creating new products and generating new employment opportunities.
- Build a comprehensive policy/program monitoring and evaluation plan to ensure the effective and successful implementation of the above action proposals.

3.8 Build an Effective Labor Administration System

- Labor - in all its dimensions - is fundamental to Liberia's developmental goals. However, the country has not sufficiently exploited this potential competitive edge. Thus, the labor administration system has not achieved optimum results in enhancing economic growth and better livelihoods. To rectify this and other labor related challenges, the Unity Party Government will undertake the following:
- Reduce unemployment by developing a deliberate plan to create jobs by linking investment, including FDI, to employment creation; improving agriculture production; developing agro-based industry and small scale manufacturing, including the traditional cottage to absorb the teeming number of unemployed Liberians.
- Link specific investments and job creation directly to various vocational training programs to hire graduates.
- Increase manpower development or human capital to ensure that Liberians are employable, and can compete for high earning jobs and contribute to a

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productive economy; programs will be developed to train Liberians to be able to provide manpower and expertise for semi-skilled jobs such as in manufacturing and highly skilled jobs, which require a high level of education and training.

- Promote effective Liberalization by ensuring the effective application of the policy of Liberalization in employment. Suitably qualified Liberians will have preference for all jobs created in the country.
- Ensure workers' rights by prioritizing decent work for Liberian workers in acceptable, safe and dignified working conditions, and ensuring that international labor conventions and corresponding national legislations that promote fundamental rights of workers (including the right to organize and engage in collective bargaining) are enforced to promote workers' interests.
- Build and promote a tradition of tripartite partnership between labor, employers and government for achieving social protection and social dialogue among the tripartite constituents, greater economic equity, peace and industrial harmony.
- Foster a tripartite relationship that will no longer be adversarial but rather one of progressive partnership in promoting decent work and improved economic equity and fairness.
- Promote Labor Standards by ensuring that all international labor standards and national legislations to promote decent work apply, and appropriate ILO conventions ratified.
- Develop an effective labor market system to help generate appropriate labor market data and analysis to determine trends in the labor economy, and inform policy for appropriate actions regarding employment, unemployment and wages across sectors and occupations.
- Increase productivity by placing emphasis on manufacturing jobs and promoting partnership with private businesses and employers to generate capital for such ventures particularly in rural Liberia.

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3.9 Reform Civil Service, Pension and Social Security Programs

The Civil service is the primary channel through which government provide public service. The capacity of government to achieve its policy goals depends on the quality of the civil service. Pension and social security programs support and provide post - employment dignity for retiring and aging members of the national work force. There are challenges confronting both national programs, first in terms of adequate capacity to deliver public service by the civil service and improved social security programs for the aged and retired.

Our Agenda

The Civil Service

The UP-led administration will build on earlier attempts at civil service reforms. Towards this end, it shall seek to undertake the following strategic actions:

- Right-size the service and increase its effectiveness and efficiency through training, professional growth, and better incentives.
- Ensure that qualified redundant employees go through a process of retraining and redeployment to the private sector;
- Increase capacity for policy analysis and formulation at the middle service level by focusing professional training and development.
- Implement a career growth and development plan and process based on professional growth and measured performance.
- Deepen the service by reaching it to the level of Assistant Ministers and create a career-based civil service divorced from politics, prepared to serve the state under which ever political party that wins state power at any point in time.
- Encourage a service that challenges the thinking of political appointees, respects formal chains of command and values critical thinking and analysis, and the competition of ideas.
- Reinforce the concepts of service, performance, merit, transparency and accountability within the civil service in ways that make people believe in the service as an administrative mechanism that can accelerate the country's progress.
- Continuously improve working conditions to include staff transportation, reliable power, water, internet, and ensure all civil servants are duly computer literate.
- Institute and develop a program for housing facilities for health and education workers as a means of encouraging and supporting them in taking up assignments in rural communities in which they do not ordinarily reside.

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- Institute an annual civil service award program to recognize and reward civil servants with outstanding performance records across the public service.

Pension and Social Security

Continue to improve on our social security program to give support to those who merit it to have dignity in their post-employment life. Our pension and social security program will focus on the following actions:

- Improve pension administration referencing the new pension law enacted by the legislature;
- Initiate a saving scheme for self-employed people as a future empowerment instrument;
- Provide retirement income security for the client commensurate with economic reality;
- Reform the social security benefits to increase positivity of impact for beneficiaries;
- Create investment opportunities for pensioners to access upon retirement;
- Continue to reform and strengthen merit-based system;
- Reform pay and pension systems across ministries, agencies and public corporations;
- Improve service delivery and human resource management in the public sector;
- Increase development of leadership and managerial skills in the public sector, and
- Ensure gender equity in the civil service.

3.10 Promote Commerce and Trade Regulations that Support Local Entrepreneurs

We regard trade and industry as the vital linkage to the private sector and are committed to utilizing the sector as a means of stimulating economic growth and facilitating the meaningful involvement of Liberians in business. Commerce and trade policy enhances the development of local entrepreneurship, expands access to credit, engenders manufacturing, and enables local businesses to compete adequately with their foreign counterparts.

Our Agenda

Our strategic action points will include the following:

- Accelerating the restoration of public utilities such as electricity, water and telecommunications and reviewing the tariff structures to ensure that the cost of subscribing for these utilities is not prohibitive to existing and prospective businesses.

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- Reviewing the policy environment with a view to promoting the trade and manufacturing of goods domestically, with special consideration for operations engaged in value addition.
- Strengthening and promoting a campaign to sensitize Liberians towards supporting local business by buying products made in Liberia.
- Working with the Liberia Marketing Association to strengthen that organization (financially and managerially) so that they could procure goods internationally and progressively promote the trade of Liberian produce and value chains such as country rice, cassava, vegetables, cattle and fowls.
- Collaborate with the National Investment Commission, MFDF and LRA to establish regional commercial hubs around the country as forerunners for relocating manufacturing units outside of Monrovia.
- Invest in manufacturing and local industries and encourage the innovative use of local raw materials.
- Facilitate integration of local economy into global supply chains, and increase rates of return on investment.
- Boost productivity for the domestic producers to expand export base and enhance global competitiveness.
- Strengthen capacity of institutions responsible for formulating and implementing trade policies.
- Prioritize the domestication of the World Trade Organization trade facilitation Agreement, which Liberia has acceded to.
- Continue to build the capacity of small and medium enterprises across the country.
- Ensure that trade policies are developed in consultation with those whose activities the policies are intended to influence (participatory policy process).
- Update obsolete trade and commerce regulations to commensurate with current realities.

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- Ensure predictability of our regulatory system so that businesses are not exposed to shock.
- Ensure that businesses receive prior alerts before instituting any changes to trade or business regulations.

3.11 Establish Special Economic Zone to Promote Industrial Development

Given Liberia's membership at the WTO and status as a least developed country (LDCs), an Industrial Special Economic Free Zone would attract investors who are interested in investing into the cultivation and processing of some of our traditional agricultural and forest products such as rubber and timber into high-value commodities, and take advantage of the benefits that LDCs enjoy within the framework of the WTO. These investors would also take advantage of Liberia's qualification for the EU's 'Everything But Arms' (EBA) initiative as well as the US's tariff-free export under the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) initiative to benefit from these markets.

The Special Economic Free Zone will further serve as commercial and financial center not only for the Mano River Basin but the West African Sub-region. To facilitate the establishment and utilization of an economic free zone, the UP-led government will ensure the followings:

- Enact law to establish a Special Economic Zone to encourage investment into our manufacturing sector to stimulate industrialization of our economy.
- Formulate trade policies to safeguard the interest of both the government and investors.

3.12 Implement Liberianization Policy

The Liberian economy is dominated by trans-national corporations operating as concessionaires. Then, there is the trade sector, which has, historically, been dominated by Lebanese, Indians and Fula business people. Regretfully, Liberian businesses operate at the fringes and margins of their own economy. Many Liberian businesses fall within the realm of small and medium-scaled businesses, while the majority are within the informal sector without stable incomes, salaries and wages and incapable of expanding.

Our Agenda

To ensure that Liberians commence taking charge of their own economy, the Unity Party will endeavor to undertake the following strategic actions:

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- Continue to strengthen and enforce government policies in the procurement sector that mandates that a certain portion of all government procurements be directed to Liberian businesses.
- Set aside a Special Liberian Business Development Fund, to be managed by an autonomous agency. Through this fund, implement a robust, *rounded package of assistance* to support Liberians acquire the capabilities and discipline they need to overcome their weaknesses and excel in business competition and achieve standards required to access commercial funding. This support package will include (i) trade and managerial skills development; (ii) technical and professional support; and (iii) associated hardware and soft-wares (computers and computer training).
- Set aside a special Project Fund for Liberians wishing to undertake certain economic activities. Agriculture will be first and focus will be on rice and other short-term food crops. Animal husbandry, fish farming, poultry and other fowl-raising activities will also be included.
- Encourage companies, especially those engaged or applying to be engaged in the extractive industries, to heighten their local content value of their operations by involving Liberians in equity participation and top management. Towards this end, schemes will be developed to ensure that host communities and private sector groups are supported to take up tangible corporate interests in industries that are based in their communities.
- Aggressively implement the Liberianization policy including training and ensure the deployment of qualified and competent Liberians in jobs across all sectors of the economy.
- Give first hiring preference to Liberians who possess proven expertise in various sectors and disciplines consistent with the labor law.
- Make aggressive effort in ensuring that the Liberianization policies on trade and commerce are fully implemented to propel Liberians become owners and drivers of our economy.
- Take affirmative actions to expand access to finance and training for small and medium enterprises.

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PILLAR 4: HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

UP-led government shall continue to address risks, inequality and vulnerability across the society to ensure that everyone has an improved life outcome. To achieve this, the Unity Party government shall invest in programs, services and facilities in the following sectors:

4.1 Modernize Education and Skills Development

Interventions in education over the past decade have considerably addressed the issue of access. Education facilities have been restored and new ones established throughout the country giving our children a fair chance of enrolling in schools. Several community colleges have been established offering opportunities for post-secondary education. However, the imperative ingredients of quality, equity, management and relevance that characterize an effective education system remain and must be addressed.

Our Agenda

To address the challenges facing our education system, the Unity Party-led Government commits itself to building a quality basic, secondary and tertiary education system that is linked to a new national mind frame. Specifically, government will seek to improve the learning outcomes of the system characterized by the following:

- Amend the Education Reform Act to revert to the pre-civil war academic calendar, thereby aligning the academic calendar with the nation's agricultural calendar.
- Develop and implement a reading Culture with a strong focus on Liberian literature. Correspondingly, prioritize the introduction of Liberian history, geography, literature and civics within the school curriculum with a focus on nationalism and responsible citizenship.
- Design and fully implement a holistic school supervision process. Towards this end, support the County Education Systems and strengthen them to develop proactive strategic plans and support those plans to actualize a decentralization governance process.
- Develop and support a program to introduce Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in the education system especially at the secondary level.
- Strengthen the training and deployment across the country of a motivated and incentivized teaching workforce.
- Reinforce the Code of Ethics at all levels of education.

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- Establish/institutionalize standards in the school systems covering all essential inputs (i.e., buildings, play grounds, libraries, laboratories, curriculum, and teacher certification) that qualify schools and places of learning as the ideal institutions for child development and education in Liberia.
- Launch a merit based scholarship scheme aimed at assisting deserving students, especially in the leeward counties, who do not have the means to continue their schooling at the tertiary level.
- Establish School feeding program using local farmers.

The educational system will be reformed to improve teacher quality, students' achievements, extra-curricular activities, facilities management, staff compensation and condition of service, curriculum with emphasis on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education. We propose the following interventions:

- Provide improved incentives and better conditions of services to attract, train and retain high quality educators.
- Prioritize and roll out a national adult literacy program.

4.2 Improve the Quality and Level of Primary and Secondary Education

- Prioritize the implementation of the Education Reform Act of 2011 to improve our educational system;
- Re-activate and construct where applicable multilateral high schools including TVET component
- From kindergarten to college we will provide textbook with content quality, ensure excellence in teaching and improved pedagogy
- Introduce pre-kindergarten program for kids
- Improve learning environment for school-age children and enforce the free and compulsory primary education
- Ensure that the educational system has appropriate and adequate supply of textbooks, tools, and supplies to enhance transfer and acquisition of knowledge and skills;
- Ensure the school system has sufficient trained teachers and support staff to provide quality services to our students;
- Strengthen financial support for Teachers' Training Institutes to improve their skills;
- Enhance reading, science, and technological capacities of our students;

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4.3 Improve the Content and Quality of our TVET Program

- Link vocational training institutions with concessions and industries in the country to be able to develop curricula and programs that meet their skills needs.
- Strengthen apprenticeship program and encourage concessions/industries to recruit students undergoing training at Vocational Training Institutions (VTIs) to help sharpen their skills while still in training, and enable them find easy access to employment opportunities.
- Mandate secondary school students to take one TVET course along with the academic course to provide them marketable skills.

4.4 Improve the Quality of Tertiary Education to make Graduates Competitive

- Ensure the Commission on Higher Education work with tertiary institutions to strengthen the quality of faculties transferring knowledge to post-secondary students.
- Ensure higher education and specialized training skills are focused on the critical development needs of Liberia.
- Support research and publication in all fields at public tertiary institutions to inform public policy.
- Provide the necessary subsidies to our private institutions of higher learning to ensure that they help achieve the nation's objective of improving the quality of its educational system.
- Establish a National Academy of Sciences to encourage innovation in research and development.

4.5 Improve Healthcare Delivery and Sanitation Facilities

Our national health care delivery has steadily improved since the EBOLA crisis. However, many challenges remain. These include focus on health promotion, preventive and curative measures, high investment on fixed structures, and low doctor to patient ratio, inadequate equipment and quality drugs.

Our Agenda

To attend the protracted problems in our health care delivery system, the Unity Party will endeavor to vigorously undertake the following strategic actions:

- Continue to prioritize health in the national budget with a view to increasing the health budget to 15% of our national budget in conformity with the Abuja Declaration.

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- Continue to hold assistance conversations with donors for specific areas of health services such as drugs and essential medical supplies, diagnostic equipment; manpower training in identified specialized areas such as Psychiatry.
- Re-direct our health care services from a curative orientation to preventive services orientation. In this context, less focus will be on the construction of more fixed facilities (except where it is necessary) and more on the accentuation of primary health services, with emphasis on health promotion including Information, Education and Communication (IEC), access to water and sanitation, and good hygiene practices.
- Strengthen the National Drugs Service to increase the reliable supply of quality drugs and essential medical supplies to health care facilities across the country, and energetically regulate the sale of drugs in the sector.
- Study the possibility of creating and establishing a national Health Insurance Scheme to provide healthcare to all our people.
- Provide basic and essential diagnostic equipment and materials to health facilities, especially at the tertiary, teaching hospital.
- Seek technical and financial assistance to fully study and address the growing issue of mental health in the country.
- Privatize the provision of “special incentives” to attract medical doctors and other health personnel to work in rural communities.
- We shall increase investment in building clinics and hospitals, and provide support for improved and specialized skills at all levels of the healthcare delivery system. Efforts will be made to develop uniform health delivery around the country. Pay attention to curative health care delivery to compliment preventive health-care delivery. In addition, we shall take the following measures to improve the provision of public healthcare services.

4.6 Improve and Expand Healthcare Delivery System

- Improve compensations for healthcare workers (housing opportunity, improved pay, etc.) and provide continuous professional development opportunities.
- Ensure adequate supply of essential drugs, medical equipment and laboratory supplies to improve the quality of our health-care delivery services.
- Minimize the exodus of treatments abroad by developing diagnostic and treatment centers to re-establish confidence in our health-care system that all Liberians will want to attend treatment here.

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- Provide the necessary supports to A.M. Dogliotti College of Medicine and School of Pharmacy of the University of Liberia as well as designate and equip a second hospital that serves along with the J.F.K. Medical Center as the teaching hospitals.
- Continue tuition free programme at the A. M. Dogliotti for Liberians interested in studying medicine or becoming medical doctors as well as training public health professionals.
- Provide the necessary financial support to strengthen the Tubman Institute of Medical Art (TIMA) and other public nursing-training institutions in the country to adequately prepare our healthcare workers.
- Promote reproductive healthcare education targeting women and adolescent girls through our school system and other programs to reduce the frequency of early childbearing.
- Encourage and promote programs for expanded healthcare education intended to ensure proper health practices at community and household levels to guard against future outbreaks or epidemics.
- Rehabilitate and expand healthcare-delivery facilities across the country, and ensuring that a large proportion of our population does not only have increased access to healthcare services but that these services are provided at affordable cost for all community residents.
- Rehabilitate and improve the qualities of service delivery at all existing public hospitals, health centers, and clinics and ensure that these facilities provide the needed service to our population thereby reducing the need for Liberians traveling abroad for basic healthcare services.
- Ensure each district has a well-equipped health center to provide general medical services to the population of that community, and reduce the incidences of communicable and non-communicable diseases.
- Work with our partners to ensure that health facilities that provide tuberculosis treatment and mental-health services are appropriately staffed and equipped to respond to the needs of the population.

4.7 Expand the Provision of Nutritional Services

- Constitute a national committee on nutrition to develop and implement a national policy on nutrition and ending mal-nutrition.

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4.8 Improve Sanitary Conditions to Reduce Risk of Future Epidemics

- Ensure communities have access to safe-drinking water and sanitation facilities and incorporate waste collection and disposal as well as sewage management facilities.
- Develop a program to ensure that every rural community is provided safe drinking water under an arrangement that is sustained by citizens themselves.
- Support LWSC to develop and implement a financial strategy that will improve its revenue base by addressing system losses and developing a billing and collection system especially in Monrovia and other urban centers.
- Further the reforms and action measures with partners towards total restoration of portable water and sanitation services in Monrovia where nearly half of the population is crammed.
- Encourage the private sector to take interest in developing a program for recycling solid municipal waste, and providing support for improved sanitation and the provision of clean and renewable energy for the general population.
- Strengthen the financial position of Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC) by increasing government's budgetary support to the Corporation.
- Strengthen national disease control and surveillance program to better prepare us to manage any future large-scale outbreaks of diseases.

4.9 Provide Preventive and Curative Support for Illicit Substance Users and Addicts

Today, our society is largely becoming infested with drug users most of whom have mental disorders. Recognizing this serious problem in our society, we proposed the following interventions:

- Enforce laws governing drug abuse and related offenses.
- Provide specialized services towards rehabilitating victims of alcohol and drug abuse.
- Invest in technology at our border posts to prevent trafficking drugs.

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4.10 Provide Low-to-Middle-Income Housing and Community Development

Shelter is a necessity but not everyone has the income to own one at the prevailing market price. The Unity-Party-led government shall take the following actions to address the housing needs of our people:

- Create and establish a Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements thereby elevating housing issues and concerns to the highest level of national governance decision-making.
- Research, prepare and adopt a forward-looking national housing and human settlement policy and strategy for Liberia
- Considering that land is the most essential ingredient in housing development, our government will work with local communities to set aside land for housing development for low and medium income families.
- Collaborate with architects and housing contractors' associations to strategize on how the government can forge meaningful partnerships with them to enhance their participation in housing development in the sub-industry.
- Explore external opportunities regarding external financing mechanisms for low cost housing facilities.
- Explore the enhancement and utilization of local building materials in the housing construction sub-industry, as well as the possibilities of using technologies used in other countries such as **bio-forms**.
- Consider incentives, in the overall scheme of housing development, such as lower taxes on imported building materials to lower the cost of housing construction to households.
- Explore ways and means by which families and households desirous of housing can be assisted to build or access decent and affordable houses.
- Ensure, through relevant institutions of the government, that better housing standards will be maintained.
- Re-enforce and apply the zoning regulation of the country in every community so that every community will be planned to enhance better delivery of essential social services.
- Provide special incentives for private developers to facilitate investment in affordable housing facilities prioritizing doctors, nurses, teachers and paramilitary officers etc. in rural communities.

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4.11 Improve Livelihood of the Physically and Mentally Challenged

- Create an environment to transform disabilities into abilities, and create access to skill development, job opportunities and unhindered access to public services.
- Build specialized institutions that cater to citizens with physical and mental disabilities across the country.
- Ensure disabled people have the same opportunities as non-disabled people to participate in civic life.
- Ensure that public facilities include access for people with disability to include entrance and exit.

4.12 Enhance Support for Women Empowerment

- Provide skills training centers across the political sub-divisions to build capacity of especially vulnerable and underprivileged women.
- Provide opportunities for women to professionally develop themselves competitively.
- Implement affirmative actions to bridge gender gap.
- Support women agricultural cooperatives to foster entrepreneurship.
- Provide support for victims of sexual and gender based violence focusing on awareness, treatment and prosecution of violators.

4.13 Enhance Youth and Sports Development

The new Unity Party government will make youth empowerment and employment a priority. A youth development plan that incorporates education, skills training, professional development, and productive employment will be prepared and implemented. We will adopt an approach that emphasizes the development of human characters: Competence, Character Building, Connection, Confidence and Contribution.

- **Competence:** We will design programs (education, training, exposure orientations) that build skills and competencies that will enable young people to either create or take advantage of opportunities in the labor market.
- **Character Building:** The lack of moral uprightness leads to vulnerability and involvement in deviant social behaviors. Our empowerment development programs will include training in moral ethics, patriotism, nationalism, and responsible citizenship. Moral ethics studies and practices will assist young people adopt good values and reduce corruption and waste in society.

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- **Connection:** Our youth development programs will promote connections with communities, professional peers and resourceful adults. This will build trust between young people and their local communities in a way that inspires them to later give back to their communities, and bridge the gap between the younger and older generations, as well as between mentors and mentees in on-the-job apprenticeships.
- **Confidence:** Our programs will provide opportunities for young people to practice and apply their knowledge and skills in areas of their competences as a means of building confidence in themselves. Toward this end, the Party will develop and implement a **National Youth Service Program (NYSP)**.
- **Contribution:** Once tested and proven capable of both doing and learning as we move forward, political space will be provided for young people to work in government and make their contributions to human development of our people
 - Establish a dedicated a national youth development fund to support cadet services.
 - Formulate a national sport policy and plan to enhance sport development.
 - Strengthen the national service program to ensure university graduates acquire experience in the public sector.
 - Integrate entrepreneurship training in college curriculum.
 - Establish a national sports academy to enhance sport development programs.
 - Construct 4 regional multi-purpose recreational facilities to include indoor sports.
 - Build capacity of administrators and technicians to support sport development.
 - Diversify sports development program to enhance Liberia’s participation in Olympics.
 - Expand enterprises.

PILLAR 5: GOVERNANCE, SECURITY, RULE OF LAW, PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

We will build on the gains achieved in democratic governance, security reform, rule of law, peace consolidation and national reconciliation.

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5.1 Ensure and Promote Good Governance and National Security

- Complete Security Sector Reforms by, among other things, by improving recruitment, strengthening overall training, supporting operational efficiency and deployment of security forces.
- Increase police presence in all parts of the country and provide the needed logistics and incentives for their effective operation, including better housing facilities.
- Avoid an elitist approach to governance by using the resources of the country to foster and promote such values as individual and collective freedom, tolerance and equality, and provide basic social services and amenities for the generality of the population, thereby enhancing their standard of living.
- Actively promote popular participation in the governance system, and create the enabling environment for all our citizens and residents alike to live in harmony with one other and go about their lives without fear or threats of danger to anyone.
- Ensure that citizens of every region of the country benefit from the resources of the country.
- Create the enabling socio-economic environment for employment opportunities in the impoverished areas/communities of the country, thereby preventing the increase of a sense of marginalization and alienation among certain parts of the population, especially the youth and women.
- Pursue with greater dynamism and commitment the devolution of governance authority to strengthen local governance and administration and promote national cohesion.
- Actively promote religious and ethnic harmony and understanding among all sections of society and strengthen alternative conflict resolution mechanisms to deal with such potentially incendiary issues as land or property disputes.
- Adopt a zero-tolerance policy for such societal ills as armed robbery, ritualistic killings and rape, by swiftly and uncompromisingly implementing judicial decisions arising from such cases no matter who may be involved.

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- Continue to train, equip and deploy professional law enforcement personnel across the country, and continue to build a professional military.

5.2 Rule of Law

- Robustly pursue the application and enforcement of laws and do so without any discrimination.
- Place premium on strengthening the independence of the judiciary by adopting a completely hands-off approach in judicial decision making; reform the criminal justice system, and ensure that all citizens and residents and all-party litigants are subject to equal treatment before the law; and that the policing and judicial systems in the country equally protect all persons and properties.
- Ensure that our courts are manned by adequate and highly credentialed judges and magistrates who will fearlessly and professionally perform their tasks.
- Uphold the supremacy of the constitution and the rule of law, protect fundamental human rights and civil liberties, and secure equality and justice, and socio-political and economic rights for all persons.

5.3 Foster Genuine National Peace and Reconciliation

The country has experienced more than a decade of peace. However, much more is yet to be done to foster genuine peace, healing and reconciliation.

Our Agenda

Our Agenda for Reconciliation, National Healing and Peacebuilding, will also draw from the work of the government on the TRC process, Vision 2030, the Agenda for Transformation (AfT) and the Roadmap for Reconciliation. It will entail the following actions:

- (i) **Confront and address our conflict past:** Vigorously pursue the process that would ensure closure and healing for the victims (individuals and communities) of the conflict. We will support and continue the course of truth-telling, atonement and psychosocial recovery programs for those still suffering from psychological scars, memorialize victims of the conflict and support community reparation.
- (ii) **Managing the Present:** Ensure that we manage our current national situation by encouraging conflict -sensitive policy and decision-making, and managing and preventing conflict through dialogue and mediation.

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- (iii) **Planning for the Future:** We promise a shared future where no person, community, county and region in the country would be left behind; a future driven by a collective national identity, inclusive history and the national vision.

Specific actions to address the above will include:

- **Mobilize the Requisite Political Will:** We will galvanize the requisite political will for peace and reconciliation initiatives, and provide the necessary political leadership at the highest levels of government in this regard.
- **Fund the Process:** Peace and reconciliation is serious business. We will put our money where our future most depends. We will therefore meaningfully fund peace and reconciliation initiatives throughout the country.
- **Assume Full Ownership of Process:** With the provision of the appropriate political leadership and public funding, we will assume full ownership of both process and results.
- **Monitoring and Evaluating:** Our renewed efforts will be complemented by continuous monitoring and evaluations. We will commence by assessing how much has been achieved by past efforts, where we are today, and where we intend to go over the next 6 years, and how we can get there.
- **Improve the lives of the People:** Much will be done to qualitatively change the economic and social conditions of the generality of our citizens.
- **Strengthen State-society Relations:** Take concrete and sustained steps to strengthen trust between the government and citizens. Since such relationships are also largely influenced by the capacity of the state to deliver services, the government will seek to strengthen the civil service to enhance its service delivery capacity.
- **Define and defend Land Rights:** The government will take proactive measures through legislations, regulations, as well as purposeful information, education and communication (IED) programs to attend to the vexing and serious land rights issues which has led to fears that the next major conflict in Liberia would be over land ownership, distribution and rights. Poor land tenure regime and unpredictable property acquisition rights will be addressed.
- **Empower the Youth:** We will empower (by ways of education and skills development) our youths and put them to work.
- **Undertake a guarded and measured Implementation of the TRC Recommendations:** The Action Plan contained in the TRC report will be implemented in a guarded and measured way. The submission of quarterly

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reports on implementation of the recommendations, as required by the statute creating the commission, will be regularized. We will ensure that thousands of victims suffering from the psychological and physical scars of the war finally find closure.

- **Offering Apology by the State:** The state will issue an official apology to the people of Liberia, particularly to victims, survivors, families, communities, ethnic groups and the general citizenry in Liberia and the Diaspora for the state's role in the abuse of citizens and physical destruction of the country. This is necessary because the state was an active actor in the 14-year war, and before that a principal source of the antecedent causes of the long running Liberian conflict.
- **Memorialization of war victims:** The state will build a national memorial in honor of the thousands of victims of the conflict and members of peace keeping forces who lost their lives trying to save us from ourselves. This will serve as a powerful symbol to remind succeeding generations of the bitter past and help prevent a recurrence.
- **Convene a sovereign national conference on Reconciliation:** The state will organize and hold a sovereign national conference for the achievement of sustainable peace among all people of Liberia, with a consensus and commitment never to return to the path of violence that nearly destroyed the Liberian state, but rather to settle disputes peacefully. Such a commitment may be legislated.
- **Ensuring Peace and Reconciliation in Development Programs:** Streamline peace and reconciliation into development projects by establishing measurable linkages between development and peacebuilding.
- **Rewrite Liberian History:** Provide full national support, and in consultation and collaboration with UNESCO, to re-write Liberian history in a way that unites all the people of this great land and re-assert our national identity to foster genuine reconciliation and national unity.

5.4 Implement the Decentralization and Local Government Reform Initiatives

To effectively tackle the protracted problem of centralization of governance, the Unity Party affirms and confirms its commitment to the decentralization of governance. The Party will endeavor to undertake the following strategic actions:

- Implement decentralization and take government closer to the people.

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- Support the passage of the Local Government Bill now before the Senate.
- Support recommendations of the Constitution Review Committee to initiate a process leading to constitutional referendum to amend Articles 3, 54 and 56 to establish constitutional framework for sustaining decentralization.
- Support and complete implementation of County Service Centers in all fifteen counties to ensure they remain a sustainable program for service delivery to citizens in the rural areas.
- Implement a sustainable program of decentralized, gender-sensitive participatory and accountable system of local governance in Liberia.
- Empower local authority in determining their needs, and Government will provide them the resources and voice to address those needs.

5.5 Strengthen Integrity Institutions and the Fight against Corruption

Corruption in government is one of the many problems that continue to undermine public trust, slowdown sustainable development and impair our quality of life. Bad people use public resources for personal gains or divert public resources for services not intended. Our anti-corruption fight shall seek to cultivate the political will to fight corruption in all its manifestations and at all levels. It will:

- Hold all government officials and public servants accountable.
- Establish a fast track special court to deal with all corruption-related cases in the country. Those judicially found guilty will not only serve prison terms where applicable or so determined by the court, but will have those assets obtained through fraudulent activity confiscated by the state. Depending on the gravity of the corruption-related crime, such persons will also be barred from holding any public positions for the duration of the government.
- Strengthen and adequately resource existing anti-graft agencies, such as the General Auditing Commission (GAC), the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), and the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission (PPCC).
- Recruit persons of impeccable character and credentials to man these institutions.

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- Capacitate the LACC to set up a dynamic mechanism for periodic declaration of assets of relevant government officials; establish a comprehensive scheme for monitoring internal and external financial flows.
- Embark on a sustained awareness and education campaign on the effects of corruption.
- Improve salaries and conditions of service for lower level public officials (including teachers, nurses, and security forces) as an incentive to minimize their vulnerability to corruption.
- Ensure those found guilty of stealing public resources retribute the stolen amount, and or use the law to confiscate properties acquired at home or abroad.
- Impose additional sanctions, including sending to prison and or rendering unfit for public service, those found guilty of corruption.

5.6 Public Asset Management

Public Asset Management - The Unity Party-led government commits itself to ensuring that the government and people of Liberia receive value for all goods and services procured for running the business of government. Our action points in the management of public assets are as follows:

- The Public Procurement and Concessions Act will be applied to the fullest, ensuring that all goods and services are procured in accordance with prescribed laws, regulations and processes and in a manner that guarantees value for money for resources applied.
- Public assets which, by their nature and use are specialized and required restrictive procurement, will be enlisted/updated yearly and published as guidance for interested parties and concerning entities.
- All other public assets and assets-management services will be subjected to the management system of the GSA.
- GSA and the PPCC will be allowed and supported to engage in training and other activities that will improve the capacities of their organizations to adhere to regulations relative to procurement and management of public assets.

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- Fleet management will be streamlined to specify the types and model of vehicles procured and assigned to various levels of persons in the employ of government and all parastatals.
- The fleet size of vehicles will be radically reduced. A policy will be developed to determine which personnel in government and parastatals will be assigned vehicles and the uses of such vehicles. Similarly, that policy will establish guidelines for pool vehicles that will be available for utility purposes or for persons who do not have assigned vehicles but require a vehicle to get a piece of assignment done.
- Towards the setting up of a pool of vehicle for general uses, due consideration will be given to private sector Liberian entities/companies that are willing to employ drivers and other personnel employed in government and likely to be made redundant by measures to streamline the Civil Service and fleet management in the public service.
- Other services to be affected by this effort to right-size government and improve the management of public assets will be building maintenance and catering.

5.7 Consolidate Civil and Political Liberties

- Continue to guarantee freedom of the press, speech, assembly and association.
- Uphold all aspects provided for under the UN Charter on Human Right and the constitution of Liberia.
- Uphold multi-party system to ensure democratic freedom is guaranteed to all citizens.

5.8 Regularize Documentation of Citizens

- Regularize the proper identification and documentation of Liberians to address arbitrary assumption of **CITIZENSHIP** by aliens, and improve immigration services.

PILLAR 6: FOREIGN RELATIONS

Liberia will continue to improve its foreign relations and strengthen bilateral, multilateral, regional and global cooperation in pursuit of its foreign policy goals and objectives. Liberia will clarify and pursue its National Interest objectives and develop the means to pursue those objectives.

6.1 Enhance Liberia's Leadership Stature Regionally and Globally

- Continue strategic partnership in economic, security, cultural and democratic governance

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- Uphold and implement treaties signed where applicable to address specific issues of concern.
- Seek to achieve economic, infrastructural, social and political integration.
- Liberia will take a fundamental strategic decision and prioritize state capacities (economic, military, and institutional) to best position herself to make optimum gains, and sustain such gains from the international system.
- Support ongoing integration efforts of ECOWAS by strengthening cooperation in the areas of peace and security, as well as the core objectives of the MRU.
- Continue to seek a two-state solution: independent states of Palestine alongside the state of Israel.
- Continue to strengthen diplomatic missions with career diplomats and improved incentives.

6.2 Solidify Engagement with Friendly Nations and Multilateral Organizations

- Foster social-cultural exchanges in human capital development and technology transfer.
- Leverage concessional loans and grants to fund national development programs.
- Continue to work with the World Bank, the IMF, AfDB and other global financial institutions to solicit funding to finance major capital investment projects.
- The political and bilateral relationship with all World Powers and global allies will be maintained and enhanced.
- Liberia will establish very strong economic ties with emerging economies like the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) to bridge the inequalities being experienced with the current foreign relations status quo.
- Enhance Liberia’s participation in the South-South cooperation partnership.

6.3 Strengthen Coordination and Collaboration with Development Partners

We will partner with I/NGOs to align their operations with the most deficit development areas and monitor whether their interventions are aligned with the country’s national development agenda.

Our Agenda

The UP-led administration will work with development partners to speed up and enhance its development agenda. However, it will enhance the coordination of the activities of non-governmental organizations and donors by undertaking the following strategic actions:

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- Establish a framework (development priorities, sector aid management, regulation guidelines) in which donors and NGOs can work smoothly.
- Insists that donors and INGOs synchronize their programs with the country's development agenda and priorities as established by the government.
- Establish and ensure the functionality and accountability of NGO/donor/Government coordination bodies in all sectors.
- Create a monitoring and evaluation transparent and accountable system to track donor aid in-flow, as well as the impact of those resources.
- Insists that Liberians participate at the highest level in the leadership and operations of INGOs and long-term donor sponsored projects.
- Require relevant and adequate information from donors and INGOs on their activities to facilitate better sector performance, coordination, and impact evaluations.
- Reduce dependence on aid by adopting innovative approaches to fund national development agenda.

6.4 Strengthen Diaspora Engagement to Support National Development

Government will actively engage the Liberian diaspora by addressing some of the key concerns of Liberians abroad and harness diaspora resources for national development where applicable. Particularly, the UP led Government will:

- Set up and fund a diaspora coordination office at the Foreign Ministry to enhance national partnership with Liberians abroad.
- Build and maintain a comprehensive data based on diaspora Liberians.
- Pay attention to the interests of Liberians abroad.
- Mobilize diaspora participation in social economic development of the country.

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THE LEADER WE NEED

We need a national leadership that will **Think Liberia, Love Liberia and Build Liberia.**

THE ATTRIBUTES OF AMBASSADOR BOAKAI, THE LEADER WE NEED

It is against this background that we present to you Ambassador Joseph N. Boakai:

- He is a humble public servant.
- He is a people centered leader.
- He loves Liberia and has loyalty to no other country.
- He shows no sense of arrogance.
- He is honest and possesses an excellent public service record.
- He is a nation builder.
- He is competent.
- He is a leader and thinks of the greater good of our country.
- He is a patriotic statesman with clean hands (from war and corruption)
- He relates to all Liberians in the same way.

OUR STRATEGY FOR PROGRESS

The Unity Party National Strategy is based on our commitment to execute the 2017 Unity Party Platform along with all other well-meaning and competent Liberians regardless of political affiliation, sex, or other background. It shall:

- Adopt a people-centered approach that focuses on ordinary Liberians and utilizes their enormous potential;
- Seek to aggressively review the mandates and functions of government ministries, agencies and commissions to ensure efficiency and minimize waste;
- Encourage and support public-private cooperation in the provision of basic services to all disadvantaged Liberians;
- Promote hard-work, honesty, and diligence as national traits;
- Combine the creativity and team-spirit inherent in Liberians with international best practices for higher productivity; and
- Continue to strategically engage the international community in the aggressive pursuit of our national development agenda.

In short, our strategy for progress is based on your endorsement of the Contract that the Unity Party has signed with you through Ambassador Boakai and Hon. Nuquay working with all auxiliary groups, well-wishers, sympathizers and collaborating parties. It is important that you hold us accountable for our platform. One action that is

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required of you is to elect Ambassador Boakai and Hon. Nuquay to lead our Country. It requires you to cast your ballot for the Unity Party ticket on October 10, 2017 to make this happen.

ISSUES OF CONCERN

The areas of concerns include the following:

- **Road**-we will continue to focus on major investment in road network as a key infrastructure to support our overall economic development.
- **Corruption – deal drastically with** corruption and name, shame and punish corrupt officials and citizens.
- **Reconciliation** – that additional efforts are made to ensure that Liberians are reconciled. Reconciliation will consider the severe impact and consequences of war on Liberians and seek to also reconcile the haves and have-nots by ensuring equitable distribution of wealth.
- **Job creation/Youth and Women Empowerment** - to create the enabling environment where jobs are available to absorb the youth and to promote women endeavors and economic empowerment.
- **Dual Currency/US-LD Exchange Rate** – to adequately address the issue of the high exchange rate, and ultimately adopt a single currency.
- **Agriculture** – to make additional effort at empowering farmers, providing the supportive infrastructures and facilities to spur agricultural prosperity.
- **Media and Communication:** Media and Communications can play a catalytic role in national development. Unfortunately, this is one sector that has remained underutilized and misapplied, and therefore remains a weak link in Liberia's development efforts. We will therefore strengthen and consolidate the institutional framework governing communications and information dissemination in the country consistent with best practices to spur social economic growth and development.

CONCLUSION

This Platform has been derived from consideration of what the Liberian people desire to see the Joseph Boakai led-government do for them and their country. However, during the 2017 election campaign, the Unity Party will be sensitive to the expression of other burning popular desires.

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PLATFORM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Mr. Roland Layfette Giddings, Chairman
2. Prof. Alaric Tokpa, Co-chairman
3. Mr. Zotawon D. Titus, Secretary
4. Mr. Mohammed H. Bility, Member
5. Dr. J. Alexander Nuetah, Member
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14. Mr. Willie Belleh, Member
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16. Mr. Mathew Kollie, Member
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19. Atty. T. Emmanuel Tomah, Member