

**C a m p a I g n P R A Y E R A N D T H A N K S G I V I N G A
D D R E S S**

Delivered by

Honorable Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr.

Standard Bearer of the Unity Party & Vice President, Republic of Liberia

On the Occasion of the

Intercessory Service to the Official Close

of the

UNITY PARTY 2017 NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

at the

National Headquarters of the Unity Party (UP)

Monrovia, Liberia

Saturday, October 7, 2017

***Distinguished Members and Officials of our Collaborating Political Parties;
All Auxiliary Organizations for the Election of Ambassador Boakai for
President;***

Individual Supporters and Sympathizers of Unity Party;

***Our Resilient Past and Present Officials and also our Committed
Partisans;***

Members of the Fourth Estate;

Fellow Liberians;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of my running mate, Honorable Speaker Emmanuel Nuquay, and our respective families, I thank God for granting us the privilege to gather here today to witness the closure of our campaign.

Let me also extend thanks and appreciation for the efforts you all have individually and collectively made that have placed Speaker Nuquay and me as the lead candidates in the ensuing elections.

Indeed, we remain highly grateful for all those Unity Party partisans, collaborating parties, auxiliary groups, legislators, eminent personalities, religious leaders and well-wishers who have put so much energy and effort into running one of the most effective campaigns in our electoral history.

Our campaign team and the various committees associated with its work have certainly been fantastic. We are very proud of all of you.

As we converge here today, our supporters are also doing the same in cities, towns and villages throughout the country. Speaker Nuquay and I remain highly grateful for the massive show of support for our candidacy.

Let us make it clear that today's event is actually not a closing rally. This quest continues until the last ballot drops in the ballot box. What we are here to do today principally is to thank our supporters and the auxiliaries for their role in the historic tsunamic show of strength on the 16th of September. Indeed, your message was loud and clear.

We wish to assure all of our supporters, and Liberians from all walks of life, that when you elect us into office in a few days' time, we will strive with every fiber in our veins to uphold your confidence and trust in our leadership of our beloved country. We say so because we have the capacity, capabilities, experience, the necessary commitment and sense of patriotism to take our country to higher heights, beyond what it has achieved since its 170 years of existence. We give you this assurance because our presidential slate cuts across the generational spectrum of our society.

By combining wisdom, experience, and appropriate leadership temperament with youthful vigor, zeal, and passion, my running mate and I clearly constitute the right generational balance in leading our country for the next six years.

We are aware that there are many individuals who are today parading themselves around the country as messiahs---promising our voters the sun and the moon, skyscrapers, huge budgets, bridges to where there is no water, borrowing from voodoo economics and giving Utopian manna from the heavens. They will show their prowess at showing the WHY. Yet, most of these individuals can neither tell us the HOW nor the WHEN they intend to fulfil these unrealistic promises.

Even worse, they stand bereft of any performance history that has been beneficial to the masses of our people. All they ask for is your MANDATE based on blind faith. How do you give what you don't have? We are however encouraged by the reality that the Liberian voters are smatter; and that they are quite aware that such individuals simply lack the depth of commitment needed to create a better Liberia for our people and a truly reconciled society.

On the contrary, my running mate and I are driven by a high commitment to our people. And we are well equipped with the necessary leadership experience, temperament and skills to create a socio-economic environment in which all citizens, irrespective of their geographical origin and partisan affiliations, will be treated equally before the law.

And let the word go forth that at the core of all of these efforts is our focus on the young people; and for emphasis young men and young women. This is largely about them for it is they who will carry the mantle to heights beyond where we stop. May I say to our women your role will become even more prominent in the Boakai-Nuquay Government!

We stand confident of our capacity to rally our people to build a society where no one will be discriminated against, and one where, irrespective of our political differences, every capable Liberian will be given an opportunity to make his or her contribution to a government of national unity and to the development of our common patrimony.

Our people must also be assured that my running mate and I are acutely aware of the difficulties the majority of our people are going through on a daily basis to make ends meet. We say so because we have also lived those experiences at one point or the other in our lives. That is why my running mate and I are so deeply committed to speedily putting in place those policies that can bring much needed relief to the suffering of our people.

We have already elaborated these ideals in our campaign platform. But we would like to briefly highlight here some of the key development projects we will set out to undertake from Day One of our leadership.

Ours is basically an agenda that has at its core our determination to take our people out of poverty and give them a better life in an environment of peace and stability. It is an agenda that aims at alleviating the difficulties many families experience year in and year out to send their children to school or pay college or university fees for our young people.

Our agenda is indeed very big on quality education for the young people, as their future and that of the country depends heavily on the quality of education they get. We stress QUALITY in our education because we are aware that even quality investment in any country is dependent on the quality of education of the workforce.

Our plan of action also includes an aggressive strategy to build up our country's road connectivity so that all parts of the country become accessible throughout the dry and rainy seasons. There is indeed no question that good roads can support agriculture by linking farms to markets; by facilitating health care delivery; and by promoting access to education. And so road connectivity throughout the country shall be a primary priority under our government.

Fellow partisans, collaborating parties and well-wishers,

Speaker Nuquay and I have a national agenda that will also focus on our health sector which is undergoing overhaul in light of the Ebola tragedy and the absence of much needed medical equipment to serve especially the less privileged segments of our people. We must put in place quality health and sanitation programs for all. We are aware that those who provide relief themselves need to be looked after. Our medical practitioners must be provided for.

Our elected Leadership will seek to create jobs for our people, especially for the growing youth population, by implementing programs rooted in vigorous training and public sector investments. We will build up the skills and competencies that will enable our young men and women to create jobs or take advantage of opportunities in the labor market and in the private sector.

Indeed, the interest of our young people will become a high priority in the implementation of our national agenda. This will emphasize the empowerment of Liberian businesses so that they are fit for any business competition. There will be no lip service or hesitation in this regard. It is a promise we will fulfill to our dedicated young Liberian businesses, many of whom regrettably remain underrepresented at this point.

Our energy and particularly electricity situation is another major plank in our plan of action. We are very much poised to move away from small light today to bigger light.

In this regard, we will build on what has thus far been achieved in this sector as we also work toward speeding up and pipe-borne water supply to those areas of Monrovia and its environs, and other parts of the country that have so far remained without these essential social services.

Fellow Liberians, my Vice Standard Bearer and I are definitely convinced more than ever, that our country cannot achieve sustainable development with corruption remaining a major part of our socio-economic and political landscape.

Therefore, under our Transformation Agenda, we will aggressively deal with Corruption in all its manifestations. That is because corruption is one of the most anti-development vices that can retard the progress of any country. We will deal with it by making ourselves examples.

The decades-old practice of misappropriating, misusing, and misapplying public resources for one's personal gain leaves a people perpetually impoverished, as resources meant for priorities such as clinics, hospitals, schools, and social services, are diverted by a few to satisfy their own narrow needs.

Contrary to whatever malicious falsehoods our detractors and paid agents might say on their media platforms, my public service over the decades testifies to my own personal integrity and clean record in accountability. And so the Joseph Nyuma Boakai and Emmanuel Nuquay Leadership will cultivate the political will to fight corruption in all its manifestations and at all levels. We will begin this crusade by the personal examples we will set, and by insisting that all public servant, relatives and friends do the same.

Our government intends to carry out these programs and many more in an environment of security, peace and stability—without which no good intentions can be translated into reality. Our Unity Party is already experienced in promoting and maintaining peace and stability—as evidenced by the 12 years of uninterrupted peace and stability the country has achieved.

And so our Leadership will go on to consolidate this peace. Our people simply cannot afford to gamble the 12 years of uninterrupted peace and the respect for civil liberties, including freedom of expression, we have enjoyed thus far. Our leadership will be the surest way of ensuring continuity in this regard because we have the right leadership temperament and tolerance level for this.

Fellow partisans, collaborating parties, supporters and well-wishers, these are some of the deliverables our government will urgently bring about once you give us the mandate and the political space to serve you, NOT AS RULERS, but as SERVANTS employed by you to deliver quality services to you all.

Finally, my dear people; as you all prepare to cast your votes on Tuesday, we call on you to be very much aware of a fundamental concept about leadership. We wish to emphasize this point because there are many and varied reasons why politicians aspire to the leadership of a country.

Some people want to be President in their quest for wealth to enrich themselves, their families and friends. Still there are those who want the job as a retirement job for personal gratification and vain glory. Others see the Presidency as their entitlement, while other aspirants simply want raw power for power sake! In all of these scenarios, the people, you the people, from whom all power and authority to govern the country comes, will not count in their calculations or concern.

My running mate and I aspire to a stewardship that is people-centered. We are in this contest because we know what our people need and deserve at this point. We are deeply aware of their desires, yearnings and concerns.

And because we ourselves have experienced these deprivations at some points in our lives what the majority of our people are experiencing every day, we definitely know the problems and do have the commitment to lead the way to the answers to their difficulties. We also have the experience, competency and the sincere desire to cater to their needs. Above everything else, my running mate and I have a LOVE FOR COUNTRY, without which no leadership will care much for the people.

Some politicians may claim to know your problems, but upon receiving power from you, they will first focus on satisfying their own desires, leaving you wondering.

So we are calling on all fellow Liberians to think deeply about the peace, stability and freedom we have enjoyed for the past several years, and assess our plan of action we intend to speedily implement in our country. This deep thought must lead you to cast your votes wisely on Tuesday.

On the great day of September 16, 2017, you made history when you defied the rains, walked long distances on the streets in support of our Ticket. My urge to you is that you RE-AFFIRM this on this one day and make your case.

We call on all partisans, collaborating parties, well-wishers, supporters and other Liberians generally, to go all out peacefully and get the needed votes out to secure us a first round victory.

This we can do, acknowledging the blessings that God has endowed us with, hence collectively reaping the fruits to positively impact us and future generations to the Glory of the Most Omnipotent Provider.

Remember, we are **Number ONE** on the ballot, and make sure also that you put the correction mark inside the little box provided for voting for us.

Thank you all for your support as we move together as one united people to **Think Liberia, Love Liberia and Build Liberia.**

God bless you all, and God bless the Republic of Liberia!