

REMARKS

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY DR. GEORGE MANNEH WEAH

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

AT THE

GOLDEN IMAGE AWARD

MONROVIA CITY HALL

SINKOR

MONROVIA, LIBERIA

JULY 21, 2022

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, OUR GUESTS OF HONOR, BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL, OUR ILLUSTRIOUS AWARDEES, FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND WELL-WISHERS:

I am delighted to be a part of this year's Golden Image Awards.

As a GOLDEN IMAGE AWARDEE myself, and as the Convener of this Award, I am even more excited that this evening we are not only commemorating Liberia's Bicentennial, but also beginning the celebration of our Country's 175th Independence Anniversary, which, as you are all aware, will be observed on the 26th of July, just a few days from now.

You will recall that in February this year, we launched the commemoration of 200 years of the founding of our beloved Nation, Mama Liberia, in recognition and appreciation of our unique and enviable history.

It was in 1822, when the first group of free African captives, who had endured slavery in the United States, arrived on these shores, at what is today known as Providence Island, and formed a distinctive bond with their indigenous compatriots. Twenty-five (25) years later, on July 26 1847, that union resulted in the birth of the first black-ruled independent country in Africa.

Tonight, as President of the Republic of Liberia, let me use this auspicious occasion to recognize and appreciate our forebears, both the settlers who came here, and the indigenous residents whom they met here, for embracing the concepts of harmonious and peaceful coexistence over the years. This has given us a nation endowed with a rich history, enviable culture, and unique heritage; a nation that finds strength in its diversity.

I also want to recognize and appreciate the tremendous role and contributions of the United States of America to Liberia. Our country's history will be incomplete without the mention and role of the historical ties and bonds of friendship that our two countries share.

**DISTINGUISHED HONOREES, GUESTS, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN:**

Several awards have been bestowed this evening upon deserving personalities and institutions for the outstanding roles that they have played, and contributions they have made, which have had an extraordinary impact on our society and mankind globally. I want to extend heartfelt congratulations to all of you for the exemplary things that you do that make our world a better place for us all. I admonish you my fellow honorees to let your various awards serve as the stimulating catalyst to continue your excellent works, roles, and contributions to society and mankind for the advancement and betterment of our common world.

I would also like to remember our most recent awardees, as well as those of yesteryears, who continue to be of exemplary service to society in their respective roles, disciplines, and works. We remain appreciative and grateful for your continued demonstrations of excellence.

I also want to express my warmest appreciation to the I DREAM 4 ALL Foundation and the Board of Directors of the Hollywood and African Prestigious Awards of the United States of America, for honoring me tonight by bestowing upon me the renowned GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PEACE AWARD 2022.

I am told that this is in recognition of my hard working role and contribution, not just in helping to keep the peace and overseeing the growth and development of our country, but also for serving as a beacon of Hope for the thousands of At-Risk Youths of Liberia, as well as my instrumentality and effectiveness while working as UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador during our Country's civil war.

I am both humbled but emboldened by this Award to continue working for the ultimate betterment of my People and Country. I am a man of peace. I repeat: I am a man of peace. And I believe in the principles of Peace, because without Peace our world will not be a better place. The absence of a sustainable peace will make our dreams and aspirations unachievable.

**DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

As I end my remarks, I want to express my profound appreciation to our one and only Cultural Ambassador, Queen Juli Endee, and the Crusaders of Peace, for organizing yet another Golden Image Awards Night filled with glamor, splendor, and elegance.

Ambassador Endee, this is yet another show of patriotism and love for country. I want to assure you, Juli, my dear traditional daughter, of my Government's continuous support for your work in promoting our culture, arts, and peace. May our God Almighty continue to grant you the strength, wisdom, and courage to do more for our country and people.

I thank all of you for gracing the Golden Image Awards with your glittering presence here tonight.

Again a big CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE HONOREES.

I thank you.