

**STATEMENT BY HONORABLE JEREMIAH KPAN KOUNG, SR. AT THE
COMMISSIONING OF PORT EQUIPMENT AND LAUNCH OF NIGHT-TIME
SAILING AT THE FREE PORT OF MONROVIA, JULY 3, 2025**

Honorable Sekou A.M. Dukuly, Managing Director of the National Port Authority

The Acting Managing Director of APM Terminals Liberia

Honorable Members of the National Legislature

Members of the Cabinet and other officials of Government

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I bring you warm greetings from His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr, President of the Republic of Liberia, whose vision for economic transformation remains unquestionable.

The President recognizes the efforts of the National Port Authority and all partners who continue to support the expansion of the Free Port of Monrovia as the gateway to our thriving economy.

The free port of Monrovia has long stood as a pillar for national growth.

It is the largest and busiest port of Liberia, handling over 80% of our country's trade portfolio through import and exports of essential goods and services.

It connects our Nation to global trade routes, facilitates commerce, and serves as a beacon of opportunity for job creation and private sector development.

Our government recognizes that a strong and efficient port system is essential to national development. Under the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID), we remain committed to improving port infrastructure, ensuring transparency and global compliance.

Let it be known that the port is the heartbeat of our economy which carries the possibilities for improving the private sector and lifting thousands of Liberians out of poverty.

It is therefore with great pride and national significance that we gather here today to mark two historic milestones in Liberia's maritime and economic journey; the commissioning of modern port equipment and the official launch of night-time sailing at the Free Port of Monrovia.

I am convinced that these achievements represent technical upgrades or operational adjustments. They are bold symbols of progress, readiness, and our collective commitment to positioning Liberia as a regional hub for trade and commerce.

The commissioning of these equipment reaffirms our government's preparedness to make our economy competitive and boost our Nation's integration into regional and global markets. With these assets, we are reducing the vessel turnaround time and enhancing safety and service delivery at the free port of Monrovia.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, this investment sends a strong message: Liberia is ready and open for business. We are modernizing our port infrastructure to meet global standards, attract investment, and support the growth of both local and international industries.

Now, the night-time sailing marks a major step in our maritime operations.

For the first time in many years, vessels will now be able to enter and exit the Free Port of Monrovia beyond daylight hours.

This means that we have enhanced port productivity, 24-hour operations, reduced shipping costs, and improved competitiveness in the region.

However, we could not achieve this alone! I acknowledge the leadership and staff of the National Port Authority and our partners in the maritime and logistics sectors, who believed in our vision for a sustainable economy that will create jobs for our people.

With these improvements, it is now time for us to introduce the Advanced Cargo Declarations (ACD) and Time Release Services (TRS); these tools potentially reduce delays and improve efficiency.

As we celebrate today, let us also remember that this is not the finish line, but a new beginning. Let us continue to build, innovate, and invest in the infrastructure that will drive our economy forward and improve the livelihood of all Liberians.

Together, let us sail into a future where Liberia's ports are the true drivers of our economy. I encourage all port users to take advantage of this 24 hours service and terminal operations.

Ladies and gentlemen, we hereby officially launch the nighttime sailing operations.

Thank you