



Liberia Chamber of Commerce

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His Excellency Joseph Nyumah Boakai, President of the Republic of Liberia; Government Ministers; Heads of Government entities and other officials of Government; members of the Diplomatic Corps; members of the National Steering Committee; development partners; private-sector colleagues; civil society organizations; distinguished ladies and gentlemen: all protocols observed.

Good afternoon.

I bring you greetings on behalf of the President of the Liberia Chamber of Commerce, Hon. O. Natty B. Davis II, who is currently out of the country, as well as the Executive Council and the entire membership of the Chamber.

The Liberia Chamber of Commerce congratulates the Government on the progress made toward implementing the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development and is pleased to reaffirm the commitment of Liberia's private sector to supporting its successful implementation.

The private sector is not only a beneficiary of national development; it is an indispensable partner in delivering it. Businesses create jobs, generate public revenues, stimulate innovation, expand trade, and provide the goods and services that sustain our economy and improve the lives of our people.

For the ARREST Agenda to translate into tangible improvements in the lives of Liberians, we must create an enabling environment in which businesses—particularly Liberian-owned micro, small, and medium enterprises and women- and youth-led businesses—can grow, formalize, access finance and markets, and compete effectively.

The Liberia Chamber of Commerce therefore welcomes the Government's commitment to structured private-sector engagement. Through this National Steering Committee, we encourage sustained public-private dialogue that moves beyond consultation toward joint action, measurable results, and mutual accountability.

In this regard, we respectfully call upon His Excellency the President to give his attention to convening the first formal Public-Private Sector Dialogue under his chairmanship. This high-level dialogue provides an important platform for Government and the business community to jointly consider the major constraints affecting enterprise development, investment, job creation, domestic production, and economic competitiveness.

The President's leadership of this dialogue would also demonstrate the Government's commitment to making the private sector a genuine partner in national development. It would

enable us to agree upon priority reforms, establish clear responsibilities and timelines, and create a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of agreed actions.

The Chamber, together with Liberia's development partners stands ready to support the organization of this dialogue, mobilize broad private-sector participation, and provide constructive feedback on policies and reforms affecting businesses and investors.

Mr. President, any delays in reaching Cabinet resolution of the proposed Local Content Policy is tantamount to directly exporting employment opportunities out of Liberia. In this connection, the Chamber, working along with the relevant agencies of Government continues to support local-content initiatives. We are working to strengthen the capacity of Liberian businesses to participate more effectively in the supply chains of concessionaires, large investors, public projects, and other major buyers.

Through our emerging Supplier Development Initiative, the Chamber is supporting the identification and mapping of capable Liberian enterprises, promoting supplier readiness and business formalization, facilitating linkages between local suppliers and major buyers, and advocating for transparent and practical procurement opportunities for Liberian businesses. We are also engaging Government, development partners, financial institutions, and large companies to improve access to finance, technical assistance, certification, and markets.

Our objective is to ensure that local content is translated from a policy aspiration into measurable opportunities—contracts for Liberian businesses, skills and technology transfer, stronger domestic value chains, sustainable enterprises, and decent jobs for Liberians.

Ultimately, the success of the ARREST Agenda will depend on our collective ability to turn policy into opportunity, and opportunity into jobs, productive enterprises, investment, and inclusive economic growth.

The Liberia Chamber of Commerce remains committed to working with the Government of Liberia, development partners, and all stakeholders to build a stronger and more competitive private sector and, ultimately, a more prosperous Liberia.

Thank you.