AN INVESTIGATION OF NATIONAL UNITY BUILDING IN PRESIDENT GEORGE
WEAH’S INAUGURAL SPEECH (2018): A SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

The inaugural ceremony of President George Manneh Weah made Liberia the focus of international attention as well as leading newspapers, television and radio stations across the globe. His speech has been described as one of the best inaugural orations in modern history; what values its exploration. Following the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory, this study deals with national unity building through tenor variable and interpersonal meaning in the speech under consideration. It aims at exploring how interpersonal meaning is realised in this speech and at helping readers understand and evaluate the speech regarding its suitability. Both quantitative and qualitative methods have been used. The findings show that George Weah uses exclusively declarative and imperative moods in his speech and that the core messages conveyed through this are his gratitude, promises, and calling for National Unity for the building of this “New Liberia”.

Key Words: Systemic Functional Linguistics, Tenor, Mood, Speech, New Liberia.

1. INTRODUCTION

One of the first and foremost features of human beings is their need and ability to share their ideas, thought and viewpoint with peers around them. It is thereby said that human beings communicate. They live together, they interact, thus the concept of communication. Indeed, public performance is a vital mean of communication, and an effective way of conveying speaker’s messages to the public (audience). A political speech is a case in point with the aim at making the political viewpoints widely known or winning support for proposal. Liberian presidential inaugural address is a kind of political speech which is delivered by President George Manneh Weah on the occasion of the inaugural ceremony. This study focuses on the tenor variable and interpersonal meaning analysis in this inaugural speech. Its main objective is the investigation of the way the speech is organized by President George Manneh Weah to convey his message for national unity building through the distribution of mood, modality and adjuncts.

Following the Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) theory proposed by M.A.K. Halliday, the objectives while undertaking this study is to explore how interpersonal meaning is realized in this speech and to help readers understand and evaluate the speech regarding its suitability, thus to provide some guidance for readers to make better speeches. The methods applied in this research are both quantitative and qualitative.
2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) provides techniques and principles to analyze and explain how meanings are made in everyday linguistics interaction. It considers language as a social semiotic system (i.e. how people use language with each other in accomplishing everyday social life). The systemic functional linguistics study of language involves three functional labels: experiential, interpersonal, and textual meanings. In addition, Halliday suggested that there are three aspects in any situation that have linguistic consequences: field, mode and tenor. The organization of context correlates with the organisation of grammar. This means that there is a strong association between each of the three register variables and the metafunctions. Talking about the interpersonal relationships between interactants is talking about the tenor of the text. This is the concern of this paper.

2.1 Tenor

Halliday defines tenor of discourse as “the interactions between participants in terms of status and role relationship” (Halliday, 1978:62). Drawing on Halliday (1978, 1985, 1989), Martin (2009:159) argues that tenor is concerned with social relations, as these are enacted through the dimensions of power and solidarity. Basing on these dimensions of power and solidarity, Eggins (1994/2004) whose definition of tenor is “the social role relationships played by interactants”, this contextual variable into three continua which are ‘power’, ‘affective involvement’, and ‘contact’.

2.1.1 Power Continuum

The power continuum position situations in terms of whether the role we are playing are those in which we are of equal or unequal power. An example of role of equal power is a friend to friend conversation; an example of roles of unequal power would be those of boss employee.

2.1.2 Affective Involvement Continuum

The affective involvement continuum positions situations in terms of whether the roles we are playing are those in which the affective involvement between us is high or low. This dimension refers to the extent to which we are emotionally involved or committed in a situation. For example, friends or lovers are obviously affectively involved, whereas work associates are typically not.

2.1.3 Contact Continuum

It positions situations in terms of whether the roles we are playing are those that bring us into frequent or infrequent contact. For example, the frequent contact between spouses, with the occasional contact with distant acquaintance.

Tenor correlates with interpersonal meaning.

2.2 Interpersonal Meaning

The interpersonal metafunction of a speech represents the way the addresser and the audience interact, the use of language to establish and maintain relations with them, to influence their behaviour, to express our own viewpoint on things in the world, and to elicit or change theirs. It mainly concerns the roles of addressee and audience, mood and modality. The interpersonal metafunction mainly involves the analysis of mood, modality and personal pronouns.

2.3 Speech Roles and Primary Speech Functions
In interpersonal metafunction, the clause is organized as “an interactive event involving speaker, or writer and audience” (Halliday, 1994:106). The term ‘speaker’ covers both speaker and writer. When people speak, the speaker adopts for him- or herself a particular speech role while assigning to the listener a complementary role, which he/she wishes him/her to adopt in his/her turn (Halliday, 1985). The most fundamental speech roles are giving and demanding. The speaker is giving something to the listener, or demanding something from the listener. The two types of commodity exchanged are goods-&-services or information. Taking these two variables into consideration, Halliday (1994) defined the four primary speech functions: offer, command, statement, and question. If the speaker gives goods-&-services to the listener, this is an offer; if he/she gives information, this is a statement. If the speaker demands goods-&services from the listener, this is a command; if he demands information, this is a question. These four functions are realised by the different Mood choices: declarative, interrogative, and imperative. A statement is expressed as a declarative clause, offer and a question as an interrogative clause and a command as an imperative clause. In an interrogative clause, for example, a speaker is “taking on the role of seeker of information and requiring the listener to take on the role of supplier of the information demanded” (Halliday, 2004:106). Offering goods-&-services or getting information requires interaction, which enhances interactive features. This interaction occurs between closer interlocutor relationship, especially in informal and dialogic context. When using a clause to exchange information, Halliday refers to it as a proposition.

2.4 Exchanging Information: the grammatical structure of propositions

It (the proposition) can be divided into two functional constituents: mood and residue.

2.4.1 Constituents of the Mood

The Mood is one of the elements to compose a clause. In other words, it is the element which comes first in the clause and serves as the starting point for the message. It consists of subject, which is a nominal group, and finite, which is part of a verbal group.

2.4.1.1 Subject

The definition of the subject offered by Hallidays (2004:34) is that it realizes the thing by reference to which the proposition can be affirmed or denied. It provides person or thing is vested the success or failure of the proposition. The identification of the subject can be achieved by the tag test: the element that gets picked up by the pronoun in the tag is the Subject. So, in order to uncover the subject of any clause, it needs simply to tag the clause.

2.4.1.2 Finite

It is the second element of the Mood. This is the constituent that makes the propositions definite. It states the proposition to allow it to be assessed. It is the verbal part of the tag, which identifies the finite. It is also the first item in the verbal segment of the clause.

2.4.2 Constituents of the Residue

A residue is a functional constituent of a clause which can be left or ellipsed. Contrary to the Mood which contains two constituents, the Residue can contain a number of functional elements. These are: the predicator, one or more complement and any number of different types of adjuncts.
2.4.2.1 Predicator
The predicator is the lexical or content part of the verbal group. It fills the role of specifying the actual event, action or process being discussed. The predicator is identified as being all the verbal elements of the clause after the single Finite (Eggins, 2004:155).

2.4.2.2 Complement
A second component of the Residue is the complement. A complement is defined as a non-essential participant in the clause, a participant somehow affected by the main argument of the proposition. It is identified as an element within the Residue that has the potential of being Subject but is not. A complement can get to be Subject through the process of making the clause passive.

2.4.2.3 Adjuncts
Adjuncts can be defined as clause elements which contribute some additional information to the clause. They are not nominal but are adverbial or prepositional and are elements of both Mood and Residue. There are different types of adjuncts: circumstantial adjuncts, modal adjuncts and textual adjuncts.

2.5 Exchanging Goods and Services: The grammatical structure of proposal
The grammatical structure of proposal deals with the grammar of clause through which tangible commodities or activities are exchanged. It is the grammatical structure of the language we use to influence each other’s behavior.

Halliday (2004:176) suggests two categories for using language to exchange goods and services which are: given goods and services through the speech function of offer and demanding goods and services through the speech function of command. People frequently use a clause of the Mood type “imperative” to make command. An imperative may contain only a finite or a subject in its Mood element, or a Residue only.

2.6 Modality
Halliday (2000) states that modality also plays an important role in carrying out the interpersonal metafunction of clauses showing to what degree the proposition is valid. Modality refers to the space between “yes” and “no”, showing the speaker’s judgments of the probabilities or the obligations involved in what she is saying. According to Koutchadé, Datondji & Salami (2018:104), modality consists of modalisation and modulation.

2.6.1 Modalisation
Modalisation relates to the speaker’s judgment of the validity of the proposition, and covers the scale of in terms of probability (possible-probable-certain) and usuality (sometimes-usually-always).

2.6.2 Modulation
Modulation relates how confident the speaker can be in the eventual success of the exchange, and it includes the degree of obligation (allowed-supposed-required) and the inclination (willing-keen-determined).

3. TENOR AND INTERPERSONAL ANALYSIS OF GEORGE WEAH’S INAUGURAL SPEECH AND DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

3.1 Tenor Dimension in the Speech

As already mentioned, tenor is according to Eggins (1994/2004), the social role relationships played by interactants. Indeed, this research work is concerned with a speech; this is the Inaugural Speech of the Liberians’ new President. Here the interactants are the President, the citizens, and the guests. Broadly speaking, the power between them is unequal, the contact is infrequent and the affective involvement is low.

3.2 Interpersonal Analysis of the Speech

3.2.1 Mood Types in the Speech

The table below displays the statistics of the different mood types in the speech. The mood types found in the speech are statement and command.

Table 1: Statistics of Mood Types in the Speech

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mood types</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Declarative</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>97.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imperative</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>2.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2.1.1 Declarative Mood in the Speech

Most of the clauses in the speech are declarative. As mentioned in the table, there are 252 declarative moods representing 97.29% of all mood types in the speech. The clause analysis presented in the appendix includes these clauses among others:

Table 2: Declarative Mood in the Speech

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clause N°</th>
<th>Adj: vocative</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Finite</th>
<th>Predicator</th>
<th>Complement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>My fellow citizens</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>am</td>
<td>humbled</td>
<td>and thankful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td>I</td>
<td>promised</td>
<td>to do everything in my power…</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td></td>
<td>I</td>
<td>have</td>
<td>here taken</td>
<td>Adj: cir</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We need men and women, boys and girls.....

The dominant appearances of declarative clauses in George Weah's inaugural speech are successful in that they are functioned as statements. Through these, he gives as much as possible information to the audience, with which on one hand he succeeded in expressing his gratitude to his supporters. This is the case in the clauses (1), (2) “My fellow citizens, I am humbled and thankful for the trust and hope you have put in me” and (5) “To all our citizens and international guests, we thank you for coming”. Here, he before expresses his thanksgiving to all the Liberian for the trust they have in electing him and his gratitude to all the people present at this inaugural ceremony. He also expresses gratitude toward International Organisations and some core States. On the other hand, he makes promises, persuading and showing the necessity of each other for the realization of the promises. Many clauses testify these. Here are some among others: (19) “I promise to do everything in my power to be the agent of positive change”. (20) “But I cannot do it alone”. Through declarative clauses, George Weah clearly enlightens his governance publicly declaring a fight against corruption. (113) “It is my belief that the most effective way to directly impact the poor”, (114) “and to narrow the gap between rich and poor”, (115) “is to ensure that public resources do not end up in the pockets of Government officials”. (124) “We must pay civil servants a living wage”, (125) “so that corruption is not an excuse” (126) “for taking what is not theirs”.

### 3.2.1.2 Imperative Mood in the Speech

There are only 07 imperative moods representing 2.70% of all mood types in the speech. The clause analysis presented in the appendix includes these clauses among others:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clause N°</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Finite</th>
<th>Predicator</th>
<th>Complement</th>
<th>Adjuncts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>Let us all</td>
<td>stand</td>
<td>for a moment of silent</td>
<td>RESIDUE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>Let it</td>
<td>never be</td>
<td>so</td>
<td>again</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>Rest</td>
<td>assured</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Imperative clause also plays an important role in George Weah’s speech. Through this he appeals the audience to follow his instruction; in that it helps him build up his authority over the crowd. Halliday (2004) states that the two kinds of messages conveyed by imperative clauses are: one is to command others to do something; the other is to invite the audience to do something together. The latter is always following with the format "let us". In this line, while calling back Liberian attention on their past in the aim of not rendering their efforts (those who suffered of martyr for the sake of equality and freedom of the Liberia) vain, he invites the audience to stand up for a moment with him for the remembrance of their death. "Let us all stand for a moment of silence to remember those who died on our soil, in our conflict, and by our own hands" (C80, 81). With a modulated tone, George Weah commands the audience. This is the case in the clause (83) “Thank you. Please be seated”. Furthermore, he persuades with the imperative mood Liberian of
the promises for the building of the New Liberia. Clause 92 testifies this: (92) “Rest assured, I will not let you down”.

3.3 Modality Analysis in George Weah’s Speech

Modality refers to the space between “yes” and “no”, showing the speaker’s judgments of the probabilities or the obligations involved in what he/she is saying. Modality can be used to understand the speaker’s position, emotion, affirmation and attitude towards his will, revealing the speaker’s estimation and uncertainty to the recognition of things. Thus through the analysis of various types of modality, the speaker’s interpersonal meaning could be better reflected in his speech. As this research work is concerned on the discourse analysis, the following mainly analyzes some basic linguistic tools used by George Weah in his inaugural address, which is modal auxiliary. The modal auxiliaries (finite modal operators) which occur in this address are “will”, “must”, “can”, “would”, “should” and “may”. The total number of them is 70.

Table 4: Modal Auxiliaries in the Speech

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modal auxiliaries</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Percentages (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>57.142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Must</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18.571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12.857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5.714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Should</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4.285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>99.99= 100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From table 4, 70 modal verbal operators are adopted in George Weah’s Inaugural Address, of which, the most frequently adopted ones are as the following: “Will” turns up for 40 times; “must” is adopted for 13 times; “can” is adopted for 9 times; “would”, “should”, “may” take the rest numbers. In this address, “will” is frequently used to express George Weah’s intensions and plans in his future executing the authority as the president. Take for example: (142) “My government will prioritize the interests of Liberian” (134) “We will do all” (136) “That will be conducive for the conduct of honest and transparent business.” (137) “We will remove unnecessary regulatory constraints” (140) “We will not permit Liberian owned businesses to be marginalised.” (171) “ECOWAS will continue to play a very meaningful role during my presidency.” (227) “That I will make over the next six years to advance the lives of poor Liberians.” (229) “I will do more than my fair.”

The finite modal operator “must” always stands for the obligation and conjecture. It is a modal auxiliary of high value, which is provided, more often than not, with strong emotionalism. In the following examples we can find it, (102) “We must learn how to celebrate our diversity.” (106) “We must not allow political loyalties prevent us from collaborating in the national interest.” (107) “We must respect each other.” (124) “We must pay civil servants a living wage.”

George Weah uses it for the purpose of arousing the audience’s sense of responsibility for their country. Indeed, George Weah uses “can” to weaken his authority, to shorten the distance between him and the audience and not to force and command them to follow his instruction. On the other hand, the semantic meaning of “can” is “has the ability to do something”. Some are the
following examples: (20) “But I cannot do it alone.” (28) “We can do better, together.” (141) “We cannot remain spectators in our own economy.”

3.4 Personal Pronouns Analysis

Personal pronouns have the interpersonal function in discourse according to Li (2002) cited by Salami (2019). The application of personal pronouns in George Weah's inaugural speech can be shown in the following table:

Table 5: Personal Pronouns in the Speech

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal pronouns</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I (my; me)</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>29.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We (our; ourselves; us)</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>47.16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You (your; yourselves)</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>15.84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He/she (his; him; her)</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>1.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They (their; them; themselves)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From table 5, we can see that the first personal pronouns take up 76.97% of which the plural form “we” and its anamorphous “us” and “our” occupy 47.16%; the first single personal pronoun “I” takes up 29.81%. Whereas the second personal pronoun "you" occupies 15.84% and the third personal pronoun comes next to it.

4. DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

The results of the mood analyses carried out above show the mood structure of the speech. They indicate that George Weah in his speech made more use of declarative moods (97.29%). They highly outnumber imperative moods (2.70%). As declarative mood functions as giving information, one can then contend that George Weah in his speech has been more informative. Through these, he expresses his gratitude to his electors, to the people present at the ceremony and toward International organization and some states, showing his governance plan, making promises and persuading Liberian of the realization of those promises as well. Indeed, George Weah shows the necessity of all Liberians for the building of this “New Liberia”. All these are expressed through some key words, expressions and clauses. These are “I am humbled and thankful”, “thank you”, “I promise”, “We need men and women, boys and girls” (C96), “no place for corruption”.

As far as imperative moods are concerned, as already mentioned, they appear in a very low proportion in the speech. These represent 2.70% of all mood types in the speech. Through imperative, George Weah commanded the crowd to stand for a moment of silence in remembrances of brave dead and also invited the audience to seat down. Through these he fulfills the two kinds of messages that according to Halliday we use imperative clauses for. “Let us all stand for a moment of silence to remember those who died on our soil, in our conflict and by our own hands”; “Thank you. Please be seated” (C80, 81, 83). He has commanded the crowd on one hand and or the other invite them to stand up with him. Through the use of modulated imperative, the president shows his respect and humility to his assistance. It is necessary to notice the absence of
interrogative mood in George Weah’s inaugural speech. What does this imply? We use interrogative to ask question this means for seeking information. The absence of interrogative mood in his speech thus means that he is not in quest of information. He really knows the realities and the problems that his country faces.

As far as modality is concerned, this is expressed in George Weah’s speech through modal auxiliaries. The statistics show that the modal auxiliary “will” dominate and represents 57.42% of all the modal auxiliary types in the speech. This means that George Weah plans a lot in his future executing the authority as the president. This also shows the will that accompany these plans. Immediately follows the modal auxiliary “must” expressing then the obligation. After this comes “can” what expresses the possibility. All these can be shortened in this sentence: The President and the Liberian, facing all these plans; what is for them a challenge, they have the obligation to succeed and they have the possibility to do so.

Personal pronouns constitute a great part in the analysis of this speech. The high proportion of the first personal pronoun plural “we” shows George Weah’s attachment to the “National Unity”, what he sings through all the speech. He is humble and eliminates any distance that should normally exist between a president and citizens so as to keep a closer relationship with them. (215) “This is time that we put away our political differences to work together in forging a New Liberia”. (28) “We can do better together”. The president is calling all the Liberians without distinction to hold hangs and to be one for the great challenge as he quoted from their National Anthem “In union strong, success is sure. We cannot fail. United, we are certain to succeed as a Nation. Divided, we are certain to fail” (C109, 110, 111, 112). With the first personal pronoun “I” and its anamorphosis, George Weah made promises. This implies that it is “I” George Weah that is promising you. This is what he is meaning saying (92) “Rest assured” (93) “I will not let you down”. Liberians responsibility was called through the “you”. This is “Mine is an expectation that you, fellow citizens, will rise up and take control and responsibility for your destiny, that you will push yourselves to achieve the possibilities that are within your reach” (C233, 234, 235,239, 240). Considering the third personal pronoun “they” and its anamorphous first of all, they exclude George Weah. George Weah declares a war against corruption and the mismanagement of public resources. (123) “We must end it”. Implicitly this implies that he will fight corrupted people and will not himself have part in corruption.

On a deep and close scrutiny, it must be pointed out the permanent use of the vocative “My fellow citizens”; “My fellow Liberians”. Notice that these formulas came at the beginning, in and at the end of the speech. It shows the level of humility of the president on one hand and on the other hand, it was a special way of calling back his audiences’ attention. It testifies how often he masters public communication.

5. CONCLUSION

This study has focused on the tenor variable and interpersonal meaning analysis in President George Weah’s inaugural speech. The mood analysis of the speech has proved that the declarative clauses are numerous than the other clause types (97.29%). This demonstrates that he gives as much as possible information to the audience. As far as imperative moods are concerned, George Weah commands the crowd on one hand and on the other hand invite them to stand up with him. The absence of interrogative moods in his speech means that he is not in quest of information.

The analyses have proved that modality is expressed in George Weah’s speech through finite modal operators. The statistics show that the finite modal operator "will" dominate and represents
57.42% of all the finite modal operators’ types in the speech. This shows his plans in the future executing the authority as the president.

Personal pronouns constitute a great part in the analysis of this speech. The statistics show that the first personal pronouns dominate and represent 76.97% of all personal pronoun types in the speech. The predominance of the first pronoun personal especially “we” testifies his attachment to the people. He is humble and eliminates any distance that should normally exist between a president and citizens and make them all one for the sake of the Liberia. The “I” is an affirmation of his personality showing his governance plan and making promises as well. Through the third personal pronoun “they” and its anamorphous George Weah indexed the government official whose priority would be they pockets than the Republic. Corruption will have no place under his governance. As far as vocatives are concerned, it is noticed a permanent use of "My fellow citizens"; "My fellow Liberian..."; George Weah used them for calling back his audiences' attention to him. It also highlights his level of intimacy towards Liberians. All this testifies how often George Weah masters public communication.

REFERENCES

APPENDIX

Keys:
S=Subject, F=Finite, Fm=negative, Fms=modalised, Fml=modulated
P=Predicator, Pml=modulated predicator, Pms=modalised predicator,
Mood Analysis of George Weah’s Inaugural Speech

1- My fellow citizens (Av), I (S) am (F) humbled (P) and thankful (C) 2- for (Aj) the trust and hope you have put in me (C). 3- I (S) am (F) filled (P) with joy and pride (Ca) [to see (F/P)] so many friends (C) from across the world (Ac) join (P) us (C) in celebrating (C) 4- what (S) is (F) truly an historic moment (C) for our country (C). 5- To all our citizens and international guests (C), we (S) thank (F/P) you (C) for coming (C). 6- I (S) have (F) spent (P) many years (C) of my life (C) in stadiums (Ac), 7- // but (Aj) today (Ac) is (F) a feeling like no other (Ca). 8- I (S) am (F) overwhelmed (P) with the crowd and the energy (C) here today (Ac). 9- // and (Aj) I (S) guarantee (F/P) you (C), 10- when (Ac) we (S) finish (F/P), 11- there (S) will (Fm) not be (Fn) a winning or a losing side (C). 12- Today (Ac), we all (S) wear (F/P) the jersey (C) of Liberia (Ac), 13- // and (Aj) the victory (S) belongs (F/P) to the people (C), to peace (C), and to democracy (C). 14- The tens of thousands (C) of Liberians (Ac) here today (Ac), // and (Aj) many more (C) in our communities (Ac) across the country (Ac) 15- who (S) are (F) listening (P) gathered together (Ca) around radios in the palava hut (C), 16- it (S) is (F) to you (C) we (S) are (F) responsible (Ca) [to deliver (F/P)] the change (C) you (S) deserve (F/P). 17- Indeed (Ac), we (S) must (Fm) deliver (P) the change (C) 18- // that (Aj) our people (S) need (F/P), in order to transform their lives (C) for the better (Ca). 19- I (S) promise (F/P) [to do (F/P)] everything in my power (C) [to be (F)] the agent of positive change (C). 20- // But (Aj) I (S) cannot (Fms) do (P) it (C) alone (Ca). 21- First (Ac), I (S) call upon (F/P) the revered institution (C) 22- // that (Aj) host (F/P) us (C) today (Ac) // and (Aj) from which (Aj) the Vice President (S) // and (Aj) I (S) come (F/P) – 23- The Legislative – our coequal branch of government (S), [to work (P)] with me (C) [to create (P)] // and (Aj) pass (F/P) essential laws (C) 24- // that (Aj) are (F) needed (P) [to complete (F/P)] the foundation of this nation (C). 25- Together (Ca), we (S) owe (F/P) our citizens (C) clarity on fundamental issues (C) such as (Aj) the land beneath their feet, freedom of speech (C), 26- // and (Aj) how national resources and responsibilities (S) are (F) going (P) [to shift (P)] from this capital (C) to the counties (Ac). 27- The people (S) expect (F/P) better cooperation (Ca) // and (Aj) more action (C) from their government (C). 28- We (S) can (Fms) do (P) better, together (Ca). 29- Today (Ac), we Liberians (S) have (F) reached (P) an important milestone (C) in the never-ending journey (Ac) for freedom, justice (C), and (Aj) democracy (C); 30- a search (C) // that (Aj) has (F) remained (P) central to our history (C) as a nation (C). Many of those (C) // who (S) founded (F/P) this country (C) 31- left (F/P) the pain (C) // and (Aj) shame of slavery (C) [to establish (F/P)] a society (C) 32- where all (Ac) would (Fms) be (F) free and equal (Ca). 33- // But (Aj) that vision (C) of freedom, equality, and democracy (C) has not (Fn) yet (Aj) been (F) fully (Ca) realized (P). 34- That human (S) longing (F/P) for true and lasting freedom (C) 35- has (F) revealed (P) itself (C) in many ways since (Ca) Liberia’s (C) founding (F/P). 36- Sometimes (Ac) the drive (S) has been (F) divisive (P) // and (Aj) confrontational (C); // and (Aj) too often (Ac) violent, bloody, and deadly (Ca), 37- as (Aj) it (S) was (F) in the 14 years (C) of civil conflict (C), 38- when (Ac) the absence of equality and unity (S) led (P) us (C) down (P) the path (C) of destroying our own country (C). 39- Notwithstanding (Ca) the harshness and immeasurable (S) cost (F/P) of the lesson (C), 40- we (S) have (F) learned (P) // that (Aj) equality and freedom (S) 41- are (F) never just (Ca) a final destination (C) 42- that // (Aj) a people or a nation (S) reaches (F/P). 43- These (S) are
(F) fundamental human rights (C) 44- // that (Aj) our people (S) deserve (F/P) 45- // and that (Aj) must (Fms) be (F) held up (P) // and (Aj) measured (F/P) against (C) our actions, our policies, our laws, and our purpose (C) 46- as (Aj) those (S) elected (F/P) [to serve (F/P)] the people (C). 47- Almost 15 years ago (Ac) , Liberians (S) laid down (F/P) their arms (Ca), [to build (F/P)] a Liberia (Ac) of equality, freedom, and (Aj) also (Aj) a transition (C) from one generation of Liberian // and that (Aj) democracy (C) exists (F/P) in Liberia (Ac), 48- // and (Aj) renewed (F/P) their hope (C) for a better (Ca) // and (Aj) more equal society (C). 49- With the help of regional partners and the United Nations (C), we (S) chose (F/P) democracy (C) as our path (C), 50- // and (Aj) elected (F/P) the first post war Government (C), 51- which (C) was (F) led (P) by Her Excellency, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf (C). 52- Your Excellency (Av), I (S) thank (F/P) you (C) for laying the foundation (C) 53- upon which (C) we (S) can (Fml) now (Ac) stand (F/P), in peace (C) // and (Aj) [to advance (F/P)] progress (C) for our country (C). 54- // But (Aj) this Inaugural Ceremony (S) signals (F/P) more than a peaceful transition (C) from one democratic administration to another (Ca). 55- It (S) is (F) also (Aj) a transition (C) from one generation of Liberian leadership (C) to a new generation (C). 56- It (S) is (F) indeed (Ac) a confirmation (C) 57- // that (Aj) democracy (C) exists (F/P) in Liberia (Ac), 58- // and that (Aj), it (S) is (F) here (Ac) [to stay (F/P)]! 59- We (S) have (F) arrived (P) at this transition (C) neither by violence, nor by force of arms (Ca). 60- Not a single life (S) was (F) lost (P) in the process (C). 61- Blood (S) should (Fms) never (Aj) be (F) the price tag (C) for democracy (C). 62- Rather (Ca), this transition (S) was (F) achieved (P) by the free and democratic will (Ca) of the Liberian people (C), 63- guaranteed (F/P) by the rule of law (C). 64- This Inaugural gathering (S) also (Aj) celebrates (F/P) an important precedent (C): 65- // that (Aj) we Liberians (S) can (Fml), 66- // and (Aj) will (Fml), rely (P) on established institutions (C) and (Aj) the rule of law (C) [to resolve (F/P)] our political disagreements (C). 67- This (S) demonstrates (F/P) the maturity of our institutions (C) 68- and that (Aj) we (S) as (Aj) a people (C) have (F) learned (P) valuable lessons (C) from our brutal history (C).

69- My fellow Liberians (Av), let not the splendor of these ceremonies, nor the celebration of electoral victory (S), 70- make (F/P) us (C) forget (P) how (Ca) we (S) arrived (F/P) at this moment (Ac). 71- We (S) have (F) arrived (P) here (Ac) on the blood, sweat, tears, and suffering (Ca) of so many of our citizens (C), 72- too many of whom (C) died (F/P), longing for real freedom and equality (C). 73- Today (Ac), we (S) must (Fms) remember (P) the hundreds of thousands (C) who (S) died (F/P), 74- // and (Aj) many more whose lives (C) were (F) up ended and families displaced (Ca), 75- because (Aj) we (S) lost (F/P) sight (C) 76- of the fact that (Aj) we (S) can (Fml) only (Ca) reach (P) a higher state of equality and freedom (Ac) by treating each other (Ca) with love and respect (C) – not tearing each other down (C). 77- Truly (Ca) [taking (F/P)] this lesson (C) to heart (Ac) will (Fml) bring (P) the dawn (C) of a new Liberia (Ac). 78- So that (Aj) their deaths (S) would not (Fms) be (F) in vain (Ca), 79- I (S) solemnly (Am) pledge (F/P) today (Ac), with the help of all of you, my fellow citizens (C), [to build (F/P)] a Liberia (Ac) of equality, freedom, dignity, and respect for one another (C). 80- Let us all (S) stand (F/P) for a moment of silence (C) [to remember (F/P)] 81- those who (S) died (F/P) on our soil (Ca), in our conflict (C), // and (Aj) by our own hands (Ca). 82- Let it (S) never (Aj) be (F) so again (Ac). 83- THANK (F/P) YOU (S). PLEASE (Am) BE (F) SEATED (P).

MY FELLOW CITIZENS (Av), LADIES AND GENTLEMEN (Av):

84- On this day (Ac) of inauguration (C), as (Aj) we (S) begin (F/P) [to build upon (F/P) the foundation (C) of this New Liberia (Ac), 85- I, George forky klonjalehgbahkugbehTarpeh Manneh Weah (S), your new President (C), must (Fms) first ☺ give (F/P) thanks and praises (C)
to the Almighty God (C) 86- for the blessings (C) he (S) has (F) bestowed (P) on our country (Ac). 87- // And (Aj) I (S) say (F/P) “my people thank you, yaaaaaaaaa” 88- for entrusting me with the responsibility of leading the effort (C) [to build (F/P)] this New and better Liberia (Ca). 89- It (S) will (Fml) be (F) my task, my duty, and my honor (C), [to lead (F/P) this nation from division (C) to National Unity (C), // and toward (Aj) a future of hope and prosperity (C). 90- I (S) have (F) here (Ac) taken (P) an oath (C) 91- before (Aj) you (C), // and before (Aj) the Almighty God (S), [to uphold (F/P) our constitution (C) // and (Aj) [to preside (F/P)] over this Government and this country (C) to the best (Ca) of my abilities (C). 92- REST (F/P) ASSURED (Ca), 93- I (S) WILL NOT (Fml) LET YOU DOWN (S)!! 94- // And so (Aj), My Fellow Citizens (Av), I (S) want (F/P) [to admonish (F/P) you (C), 95- that (Aj) the foundation of the New Liberia (S) must (Fms) be (F) reinforced (P) by the steel of integrity (Ca). 96- We (S) need (F/P) men and women, boys and girls (C), 97- whose integrity (C) provides (F/P) the foundation of the trust (C) 98- that (S) is (F) required (P) for Liberian society (C) [to benefit (F/P)] her people (C).

MY FELLOW CITIZENS (Av), LADIES AND GENTLEMEN (Av):

99- During (Ac) my tenure (C) as (Aj) President of Liberia (C), the loudest battle cry (C) // that (Aj) must (Fms) ring (P) from the mountains of Wologisi (Ac) to the peak of Yekpe (Ac); from the ranges of Putu to the hills of Bomi (Ac); // and (Aj) from the coast of Harper to the shores of Monrovia (Ac), 100- must (Fms) be (F) the cry of National Unity (C)!

101- We (S) should (Fms) all strive (F/P) [to put (P) aside our differences (C) // and (Aj) join (F/P) hands in the task of nation building (C). 102- We (S) must (Fms) learn (P) how (Ac) [to celebrate (F/P)] our diversity (C) 103- without (Aj) [drawing (F/P) lines of divisions (C) in our new Liberia (Ac). 104- We (S) belong (F/P) to Liberia first (Ac) 105- before (Aj) we (S) belong (F/P) to our inherited tribes (C), or (Aj) chosen counties (C). 106- We (S) must not (Fms) allow (P) political loyalties prevent us (C) from collaborating in the national interest (C). 107- We (S) must (Fms) respect (P) each other (C) 108- // and (Aj) act (F/P) as neighbors, regardless of religious, social and economic differences (C). In the words of our National Anthem (C): [Quote] 109- “In union strong, success (C) is sure (Am). 110- We (S) cannot (Fml) fail (P).”[Unquote] 111- United (P), we (S) are (F) certain (Ca) [to succeed (P)] as a Nation (C). 112- Divided (P), we (S) are (F) certain (Ca) [to fail (F/P)].

MY FELLOW CITIZENS (Av), LADIES AND GENTLEMEN (Av):

113- It (S) is (F) my belief (C) // that (Aj) the most effective way (Ca) to directly impact (Ca) the poor (C), 114- // and (Aj) [to narrow (F/P)] the gap (C) between (Ac) rich and poor (C), 115- is (F) [to ensure (P)] that (Aj) public resources (C) do not (F) end up (P) in the pockets (Ac) of Government officials (C). 116- I (S) further (Aj) believe (F/P) 117- that (Aj) the overwhelming mandate (C) I (S) received (F/P) from the Liberian people (C) 118- is (F) a mandate (C) [to end (F/P)] corruption (C) in public service (Ac). 119- I (S) promise (F/P) [to deliver (F/P) on this mandate (C). 120- As (Aj) officials of Government (C); it (S) is (F) time (Am) [to put (F/P)] the interest of our people (C) above our own selfish interests (Ca). 121- It (S) is (F) time (Ca) [to be (F)] honest (Ca) with our people (C). 122- Though (Aj) corruption (S) is (F) a habit amongst our people (C), 123- we (S) must (Fms) end (P) it (C). 124- We (S) must (Fms) pay (P) civil servants (C) a living wage (C), 125- // so that (Aj) corruption (S) is not (Fn) an excuse (C) 126- for (Aj) taking (P) what (C) is not (F) theirs (C). 127- Those who (S) do not (F) refrain (P) from enriching themselves (C) at the expense of the people (C) – 128- the law (S) will (Fml) take (P) its course (C). 129- I (S) say (F/P) today (Ac) 130- // that (Aj) you (S) will (Fml) be (F) prosecuted (P) to the full extent of the law (C). 131- To the private sector (C), I (S) say (F/P) to you (C) 132- // that (Aj) Liberia (Ac) is (F) open (Ca) for business (C). 133- We (S) want (P) to be (F) known (P) as
(Aj) a business-friendly government (C). 134- We (S) will (Fml) do (P) all (Aj) 135- that (Aj) is (F) within our power (Ac) [to provide (F/P)] an environment (C) 136- that (Aj) will (Fml) be (F) conducive (Ca) for the conduct (C) of honest and transparent business (C). 137- We (S) will (Fml) remove (P) unnecessary regulatory constraints (C) 138- // that (Aj) tend (F/P) [to impede (F/P)] the establishment and operation of business (C) in a profitable and predictable manner (Ca). 139- As (Aj) we (S) open (F/P) our doors (C) to all foreign direct investments (C), 140- we (S) will not (Fml) permit (P) Liberian (S) owned (F/P) businesses (C) [to be (F)] marginalized (Ca). 141- We (S) cannot (Fml) remain (P) spectators (C) in our own economy (C). 142- My government (S) will (Fml) prioritize (P) the interests of Liberian- (C) owned (F/P) businesses (C) 143- // and (Aj) offer (F/P) programs (C) [to help (F/P)] them (C) 144- become (F/P) more competitive (Ca) // and (Aj) offer (F/P) services (C) 145- that (Aj) international investors (S) seek (F/P) as (Aj) partners (C).

MY FELLOW CITIZENS (Av):

146- This victory (S) could not (Fml) have (F) been (F) possible (Ca) without (Aj) the support of the youth of this country (C), the women of this country (C), 147-especially (Ca) those who (S) make (F/P) their living (C) by selling in the markets (Ca). 148- To all of you (C), I (S) want (F/P) [to say (F/P) a heartfelt thank you (C). 149- This (S) is (F) your government (C)!!! 150- In the famous words (Ca) of President Abraham Lincoln (C) of the United States of America (Ac) 151- “...government of the people (C); by the people (C), // and (Aj) for the people (C).” 152- We (S) could not (Fml) have (F) arrived (P) at this day (Ac) 153- without (Aj) our voices (C) been (F) heard (P) loudly (Ca), 154- // and (Aj) all our views (C), no matter how critical (Ca), being (F) freely (Ca) expressed (F/P) in (Ca) an atmosphere void of intimidation (C) // and (Aj) arrest (Ca) .155- This (S) was (F) only (Ca) made (F/P) possible (Ca) by the tolerance (C) of my predecessor (C), Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (Av), 156- who (S) protected (F/P) the right (C) to Freedom of Speech (C) as (Aj) enshrined (F/P) in our Constitution (Ca).157- Now (Ac), in my turn (C), I (S) will (Fml) go (F) further (Ac) [to encourage (F/P)] // and (Aj) reinforce (F/P) not only (Aj) freedom of speech (C), 158- but also (C) freedom of political assembly (C).

MY FELLOW CITIZENS (Av), LADIES AND GENTLEMEN (Av):

159- [To change (F/P) the structure of the Liberian economy (C) will (Fml) require (P) huge investments (C) in agriculture, infrastructure, inhuman capital, and in technology (Ac)]. 160- We (S) hope (F/P) our international development partners (C) 161- will (Fml) assist (P) us (C) in this transformation (Ac). 162- Meanwhile (Aj), on behalf of (Aj) all Liberians (Av) , I (S) would (Fml) like (P) [to thank (P) the international community (C) for the invaluable contributions (C) 16- they (S) have (F) made (P) to our peace and economic development (C). 164- I (S) thank (F/P) the ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICANSTATES, (ECOWAS) (C), 165- for standing (C) with Liberia (Ac) throughout (Aj) these years (Ac). 166- Many of our West African brothers and sisters (S) shed (F/P) their blood for Liberians (C) during (Ac) our conflict (C). 167- This (S) is (F) a debt Liberians (C) 168- will (Fml) never (Aj) be able (P) [to repay (F/P)]. 169- We (S) count (F/P) these fallen West African soldiers (C) among (Aj) the martyrs of our history (C). 170- Without their supreme sacrifices (C), this day (Ac) would not (Fml) have (F) been (F) possible (Ca). 171- ECOWAS (S) will (Fml) continue (P) [to play (P) a very meaningful role (C) during my presidency (Ac). 172- I (S) also (Aj) thank (F/P) the UNITED NATIONS (C) 173- for the important role (C) it (C) has (F) played (P) in Liberia Ac). 174- We (S) stood (F/P) with the United Nations (C) at its founding (C) 175- when (Ac) it (S) was (F) just (Aj) an idea (C) driven (P) by ideals (C). 176- Then (Ac), in our darkest days (Ac), the UN (S) stood (F/P) by us (C). 177- UN peacekeeping missions (S) have (F) ensured (P) unbroken peace (C) within our borders (Ac) for
more than a decade (Ca), 178- // and (Aj) will (Fml) soon (Aj) demonstrate (P) their confidence in us (C), 179- by transitioning its task (Ca) from peacekeeping programs of UN organizations (C) 180- which (Aj) will (Fml) continue (P) in key sectors (C) such as (Aj) education, health, and agriculture (C). 181- Ending (F/P) a peacekeeping mission (C) successfully (Ca) is (F) something in which (Aj) all Liberians and her partners (S) 182- should (Fms) take (P) great pride (Ca). 183- We (S) thank (F/P) all member countries of the United Nations (C) for your support (C) 184- // and (Aj) I (S) promise (F/P) [to continue (F/P)] [to build (F/P)] on the success (Ac) 185- // that (Aj) we (S) have (F) achieved (P) together (Ca). 186- To the Government (C) // and (Aj) People of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (C), we (S) thank (F/P) you (S) 187- for your strong support (C) over the years (Ac). 188- The Republic of Liberia (S) has (F) a strong historic relationship (C) with the United States of America (Ac), 189- which (Aj) has (F) manifested (P) itself (C) 190- // and that (Aj) relationship (C) will (Fml) even (Aj) be (F) stronger (Ca) under (Ac) my administration (C). 191- To the EUROPEAN UNION (C), I (S) say (F/P) thanks to you (C) for your strong partnership (C) with Liberia (Ac). 192- European aid (S) has (F) provided (P) critical support (C) for Liberia’s recovery (C) from war (C), 193- // and (Aj) this continuous support (C) will (Fml) be (F) important (Ca) 194- as (Aj) we (S) forge (F/P) a new path of transformation (C). 195- Without Europe (C) George Manneh Weah (S) would not (Fml) be (F) standing (Ca) here (Ac) [delivering (F/P)] this inaugural address (C) as (Aj) the 24th President of the Republic (C) of Liberia (Ac). 196- It (S) was (F) my success (C) in European football (C) 197- // that (Aj) enabled (F/P) me (C) [to give (F/P)] back to my beloved country (C). 198- Europe (Ac) will (F) always (Ac) have (F) a special place (C) in my heart (Ac). 199- and (Aj), as President (C), I (S) intend (F/P) [to strengthen (F/P)] my relationship (C) with the European community (C) for the benefit of all Liberians (C). 200- To the PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC (C) OF CHINA (Ac), I (S) say (F/P) “XIEXIE” (C). 201- Our administration (S) will (Fml) continue (P) [to support (P)] the “One-China Policy” (C). 202- China (Ac) has (F) emerged (P) as (Aj) one of Liberia’s (C) most dependable allies (Ca). 203- It (S) is (F) my hope (C) 204- // that (Aj) Chinese-Liberian relationships (S) will (Fml) grow (P) stronger (Ca) during (Ac) my tenure (C) as President (C). 205- The Samuel Kanyan Doe Sports Complex (S), built (F/P) by the Chinese (C), 206- where (Ac) this Inaugural Ceremony (S) is (F) being (F) held (P), 207- is (F) where (Ac) I (S) gained (F/P) my exposure (C) to the football world (C). 208- It (S) does not (F) only (Ca) stand (P) as (Aj) a monument (C) of Chinese friendship (C) toward (Aj) Liberians (C), 209- but (Aj) It (S) also (Ca) stands (F/P) as (Aj) a symbol of peace and reconciliation (C) for the Liberian people (C). 210- During our civil conflict (Ac), this (S) was (F) a venue (C) 211- // that (Aj) brought (F/P) opposing factions (C) together (Ca) during national matches (Ac), 212- effectively (Ca) reconciling (F/P) them (C) to a single national purpose (C), Liberia (Ac), 213- // And (Aj) once again today (Ac), we (S) stand at (F/P) this same venue (C) 214- united (F/P) for one purpose (C); Liberia (Ac). 215- This (S) is (F) time (Am) 216- // that (Aj) we (S) put (F/P) away (Aj) our political differences (C) [to work (F/P) together (Ca) in forging a New Liberia (C), 217- where (Ac) the affordability (C) of all goods and services (C) will (Fml) no longer (Ca) be (F) a luxury to the privileged (C), but rather (Aj) a right (C) for all Liberians (C). 218- To the AFRICAN UNION (C), I (S) also (Aj) say (F/P) thank you (C) for standing (C) with (Aj) Liberia (Ac) over the past several years (Ac). 219- Liberia (Ac) has (F) always (Ac) had (P) an historic relationship (C) with the AU (Ac). 220- As (Aj) a founding member (C) of the African Union (C), I (S) look forward (F/P) [to participating (F/P) with my colleagues (C) at forthcoming summits (C), 221- where (Ac) we (S) intend (F/P) [to utilize (F/P)] the resources (C) and (Aj) expertise (F/P) of the African Union (C) for the benefit of
our country (C). 222- To other bi-lateral and multi-lateral partners (C); I (S) say (F/P) a sincere thank you (C)!

223- The World Bank, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Norway, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, (S) [to name (F/P) too few (Ac), have (F) also (Aj) played (P) important roles (C) in Liberia’s emergence (Ac) from conflict (C) 224- // and (Aj) will (Fml) remain (P) critical for the transformation (C) we (S) seek (F/P).

MY FELLOW LIBERIANS (Av):

225- My greatest contribution (S) to this country (C) as (Aj) President (C) may not (Fml) lie (P) in the eloquence of my speeches (C), 226- // but (Aj) will (Fml) definitely (Ca) lie (P) in the quality of the decisions (Ac) 227- // that (Aj) I (S) will (Fml) make (P) over the next six years (Ac) [to advance (F/P)] the lives of poor Liberians (C). 228- I (S) intend (F/P) [to construct (F/P)] the greatest machinery (C) of pro-poor governance (C) in the history (Ac) of this country (C). 229- I (S) will (Fml) do (P) more than (Ca) my fair (C) 230- share (C) [to meet (F/P)] your expectations (C). 231- I (S) ask (F/P) you (C) [to meet (F/P)] mine (C), 232- for (Aj) I (S) cannot (Fml) do (P) it (C) alone (Ca). 233- Mine (S) is (S) an expectation (C) 234- // that (Aj) you (S), fellow citizens (Av), will (Fml) rise up (P) 235- // and (Aj) take (F/P) control and responsibility (C) for your destiny (C). 236- // That (Aj) you (S) will (Fml) look away (P) from the things (C) // that (Aj) divide (F/P) us (C), 237- // and (Aj) draw (F/P) strength and energy (C) from the things (C) that (Aj) unite (F/P) us (C). 238- Mine (S) is (F) an expectation (C) 239- // that (Aj) you (S) will (Fml) push (P) yourselves (C) [to achieve (F/P) the possibilities (C) 240- that // (Aj) are (F) within your reach (Ac). 241- That (Aj) you (S) will (Fml) aim (P) [to do (F/P) more (Ca) for yourselves (C) 242- // and (Aj) expect (F/P) other (C) [to do (F/P)] less (Ca). 243- // And (Aj) mine (S) is (F) a further expectation (Ca) 244- // that (Aj) you (S) will (Fml) discover (P) a new sense of fairness and integrity (C); a new love (C) for country and for each other (C). 245- A love (C) // that (Aj) will (Fml) turn (P) public servants (C) // and (Aj) government officials (C) into national champions (Ca) for change (C). 246- A love (S) that (Aj) will (Fml) bring (P) back home (Ac) Liberians (C) scattered (F/P) far and wide (Ca) across (Aj) the globe (Ac) – 247- many of them (C) highly (Ca) skilled (F/P), talented (F/P), // and (Aj) experienced (F/P) – [to join (F/P)] us (C) in building a New Liberia (Ac). 248- The sooner (Aj) we all (S) merge (F/P) our energies (C) toward (Aj) cementing (F/P) these new norms and values (C), 249- the sooner (Aj) we (S) will (Fml) transform (P) our beloved country (C) for the better (Ca). 250- In (Ac) doing (F) so (Aj), we (S) must (Fms) also (Aj) learn (P) the virtue of patience (C), 251- and (Aj) learn (F/P) [to lower (F/P)] our expectations (C), 252- // for (Aj) I (S) do not (F) promise (P) you (C) quick fixes or miracles (Ca). 253- Instead (Aj), my pledge to you (C) today (Ac) is (F) // that (Aj) my administration (C), with your help (C), 253- will (Fml) make (P) steady (Ca) 254- // and (Aj) deliberate (F/P) progress (C) towards (Aj) achieving (F/P) the hopes (C) and (Aj) aspirations (C) 255- that (Aj) you (S) cherish (F/P) in your heart (Ac) for Mama Liberia (C). 256- Let me (S) close (F/P) with these re-assuring words (C) from our National Anthem (Ac): “With God (C) above (Ac), our rights (C) [to prove (F/P)], We (S) will (Fml) over all prevail (Ac)!! Long live Liberia (C), happy land (Ca)! A home of glorious liberty (Ac), by God’s command (C).” 257- May (Fml) God Almighty (S) bless (P) the works of our hands (C), 258- and (Aj) save (P) the State (Ac). 259- I (S) THANK (F/P) YOU (C).