

Remarks by Finance Minister Samuel D. Tweah, Jr. at LINSU Induction Ceremony

The New LINSU: becoming the national dynamic for galvanizing and mobilizing the talents, energies, capacities and patriotism of young Liberians toward the transformation of their country.

1. Introduction and thanks for the preferment.
 - a. Gathering here ignites memories of my own student days at the UL and of my dealings with LINSU
 - b. I stand before students and young people today. I did the same thing on campus on multiple themes, some student related, others national related, all in the direction of perfecting the grassroots struggle.
 - c. As students we also dreamed of the enthronement of the masses, where power would ultimately reside in the hands of the people. Endless speeches, disputations and alarms to perfect this struggle have happened.
 - d. I am happy to report today that the election of mass-based and people-based coalition of democratic change and of that embodiment of grassroots struggle, GMW, is a consummation of the struggle for mass empowerment.
 - e. The fundamental political tension no longer resides in the struggle for mass ascendancy. That has been achieved. The issue now is how we use mass ascendancy to transform the socio-economic fundamentals of Liberia society.
 - f. How do we maximize the share of the benefits
2. So LINSU is having this inauguration at seminal, transformative cross-roads in the history of our country.
 - a. Opportunities and possibilities for expanding the frontiers of student engagement and contribution is mammoth.
 - b. With the mass-based political party in power, the possibilities and opportunities for students and young people are endless. You are urged to take advantages of these.

- c. LINSU has matured and transformed into a productive student organization with meaningful and powerful contributions to make toward national development.
 - a. Remembrances of LINSU fractious past.
 - b. LINSU used to be in the bags of student leader; National security Advisor Jeff Karmo used to own LINSU. For a long time as a student, my only image of LINSU Was Jeff Karmo.
 - c. LINSU was merely doing the political bidding of establishment.
 - d. This New LINSU should not do the political bidding of any governing party or political administration.
 - e. The new LINSU will not avail its national contribution through press releases or political protests.
 - f. The new LINSU should distinguish itself through action.
 - g. The whole construct of a new Liberian future rest with students and young people.
 - h. It is their behavior, their values and mores.
 - i. Who amongst you will be the next:
 - a. George Weah, to give your life to your country and be the lone star when all is failing. To believe in yourself when your environment says you cannot achieve your dreams and aspirations.
 - i. Albert Porte? To accept decision and ridicule from politicians because you speak truth to political power, because you stand for your country. To do these things not because a politician is paying you or bribing you. To stand for our country from conviction.
 - ii. Tonia Richardson. To inspire the imagination of students. I was inspired by uncle T, who was killed by rebels during the war. But real justice for UNCLE T is not when we merely place warloards behind bars. The death of this remarkable teacher is purely avenged and assuaged when we place teachers like him in our classrooms.
 - iii. Next Steven Tolbert? Yes he was the brother of a president but he was a business genius. Benig the brother of a president is not a crime. There are

many brothers of presidents who are not Steven Tolbert and will never be Steven Tolbert. Mesurado group of companies.

1. Today's Liberia calls for new titans of industry and business who can transform the space of the private sector.
- j. How does the New LINSU become the national dynamic for galvanizing and mobilizing the talents, energies, capacities and patriotism of young Liberians toward the transformation of their country? This is the thought I would like my presentation to focus on today.
 - a. Let's first begin by how we NOT do this.
 - b. We don't achieve this by recourse to the nonsensical and illogical politics of nihilism and destruction.
 - i. FPA as an example of nonsensical politics of the past:
MCC Eligibly Scorecard
 - c. The politics of the past is not what gets us there because we know the results of the politics of the past.
 - d. We don't do this by politicians refusing to accept that the fundamental structure of political governance of a country has changed and that we all have to accept this new pro-poor political reality dispensation.
 - e. We don't achieve this by spreading fear and misinformation about our own country.
 - f. But most importantly of all we don't achieve this when students and young people believe lies and misinformation and fail to use their God-given faculty, knowledge acquired from school or God-given common sense to distinguish fact, on the one hand from fiction and propaganda.
 - i. Fact: The MCC scorecard has nothing to do with the GEORGE MANNEH WEAH administration since the data is from 2017.
 - ii. Fact: Liberia performance has weakened since the last report but this decline happened under the previous administration.
 - iii. Reality: it is the new government that must resolve all these difficulties and turn the country around.

5. How do we achieve this transformation of an enlightened and productive citizenry?

a. We do so when both government and citizens fulfill their respective responsibilities.

i. Government's must invest adequately in human capital and provide opportunities for young people to thrive

1. This government has done some of that. Free Tuition for public colleges. New investments in improving doctor salaries and training.

2. More investments in improving student and teacher outcomes are necessary. The MOE Free tutorial to improve student exam scores one. 900 teachers will be deployed.

1. Students have a responsibility to take advantage of these opportunities to study.

1. Conditions for excellence in schools are much better than in my time. we didn't have the internet had to depend only on text books.

2. Today the internet avails endless resources for mastery for any student who is struggling in mathematics, physics, chemistry or English.

3. No Government can make citizens productive, more intelligent or resourceful to their country. Citizens become productive when they use opportunities provided by government.

4. Self-effort is the minimum requirement when an opportunity is available.

5. So what do we expect out of this new LINSU?

a. Army of student volunteers who can go out to help their compatriots struggling to master the rudiments of mathematics, science and English.

b. Army of young teachers of who have the talents and capacity to support other struggling B-and C-Certificate teachers in schools and communities.

c. Army of young teachers coming together toward the classrooms.

d. LINSU helping to catalyze large groups of Liberians pooling resource, ideas and perspectives to solve common national problems.

7. My fellow compatriots we must construct a new Liberian weltanschauung, a German term for worldview or a view of life.

- a. This new government and new president is committed to changing the country for good.
- b. He will continue to make sustained investment in infrastructure and human capital development.
- c. Returns to human capital are difficult to see and are slow to be realized which is why the president will focus on human capital development under the PAPD.

Government we promise a partnership with the new LINSU leadership.

- a. The Government will invite LINSU to a technical discussion on how we can achieve these aspirations under the new LINSU dispensation.