



# CENTRAL BANK OF LIBERIA



## The Launching of the PAPD Agenda A Report

### Background

The Pro-poor agenda for Prosperity and Development (PADP), is being launched against the backdrop for an unending clamor for an equitable distribution of the resources of the country. Despite the natural wealth Liberia has at its disposal, majority of its citizenry have not benefited from the 'national cake' over the years, prompting calls for change, sentiments which undoubtedly swept the CDC-led government to power. The calls have been more persistent from a sector of the society that has understandably felt neglected over decades. It is these voices that the CDC-led government has responded to with its populace message, promising to address the concerns of the marginalized of the society, most especially the poor.

### Introduction

On Saturday, October 27, 2018, scores of Liberians, led by President George Manneh Weah and foreign partners, including the United Nations, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the European Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), among others, thronged the commercial city of Ganta in North-Central Liberia to witness the official launch of the Congress for Democratic Coalition Government's flagship program, the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PADP).

The program, which attracted hundreds of local residents and other observers throughout the country, commenced well on schedule, with President George Manneh outlining the objective of the PADP.

### Objective

#### -Pro-poor Concepts

The Objective of the PADP is a medium-term effort by Government to address some of the long-standing economic, social, and political challenges that have plagued the country over the years, with a view of finding a solution intended to ameliorate some of those challenges,

by creating opportunities where citizens of the country, particularly the poor, can benefit from prospects the country has to offer.

It is a worthy effort, which if successfully implemented, could create a long-lasting social, political and economic impact the country has never witnessed for ages, thus helping to spur national development, a sense of belonging and, by extension, national reconciliation and peace in the country.

## Proceedings of the Launch

The program commenced with a prayer by the Religious Advisor to the President, M. Emmanuel Nimley, followed by an overview of the Plan, by the Minister of Finance & Development Planning (MFDP), Mr. Samuel Tweah. In his overview, Minister Tweah said the aim of the Plan, among other things is to take one million Liberians out of poverty, noting that everyone will be protected. The primary focus of the Plan, the Minister said, is to place the needs of the poor and vulnerable at the center of all development interventions.

The Plan, the Minister said, is divided into three pillars.

1. **Power to the People:** Empowering Liberians with the tools to gain control of their lives through a more equitable provision of opportunities in education, health, youth development, and social protection, thereby leaving no one behind.
2. **Economy and Jobs:** A stable microeconomic environment, enabling private sector-led economic growth, greater competitiveness and diversification of the economy;
3. **Sustaining the Peace:** Promoting a more peaceful and united society that enables economic transformation and sustainable development;
4. **Governance and Transparency:** Promoting an inclusive and accountable public sector for shared prosperity and sustainable development.

## President George Manneh Weah Rallies Citizens

A major highlight of Saturday's program was a speech by His Excellency, Dr. George Manneh Weah, whose vision, it was noted, formed the basis of what is now known as the Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development. The President, aware of the enormity of the task, said the Agenda is a framework for inclusion, more equitable distribution of the country's national wealth, and a rights-based approach to national development. 'It is the second in a series of plans leading to the goals of Vision 2030, the President stressed, indicating that it is aligned with the country's national plan with the African Union Agenda

2023 and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). “Over the next five years, we will develop our country, unite and reconcile our people, educate and develop our youths and promote peace and human rights. We want to build a harmonious society, based on the goal of economic empowerment, especially for the underprivileged,” the Liberian President emphasized.

The Plan, according to the President also targets infrastructure development, particularly roads, education, health, and security over the next five years. “We are placing emphasis on national security in order to enable our people move and live freely without fear,” the President stressed. The Liberian leader lauded all those who contributed to the successful crafting of the Plan, promising to act purposely to achieve with hard work, commitment and love for country.

### Foreign Partners Promise Support

Among those speaking at the program were the country’s international partners, including the UN Resident Coordinator Yacoub El Hillo, who expressed delight that his agency was given an opportunity to contribute to the Plan. “It is the responsibility of the UN family to ensure that we contribute not only to the document but the implementation of the document because that is the bottom line. We at the UN are going to amend and produce a new framework for UN development assistance in order to be aligned with the PAPD,” Mr. Hillo said.