



COALITION FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE

Office of the National Chairman

Temporary National Headquarters

5th Street Plumkor, Sinkor

Monrovia, Liberia

CDC RESPONSE TO THE 2026 STATE OF THE NATION

Building on Whose Progress?:

The CDC Rebuttal to President Joseph Nyuma Boakai's State of the Nation Address

INTRODUCTION: COMMITMENT TO COUNTRY OVER POLITICS

Fellow Liberians, the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) speaks today out of duty to country, not convenience of politics. President Joseph Nyuma Boakai titled his State of the Nation Address “From Resolve to Results: Building on Progress and Delivering for the Liberian People.” Yet the most important question remains unanswered: whose progress is President Joseph Nyuma Boakai building upon? The irresistible answer is “THE CDC FOUNDATION” since 2023.

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai himself admits the approach—“we have deliberately built on the progress already made.” That progress did not emerge from a vacuum. It was built under the CDC and under President George Manneh Weah through infrastructure corridors, electricity expansion, education access, health system upgrades, regional partnerships, and macroeconomic stabilization achieved under difficult global conditions. Liberia must build on progress. What we reject is the political deception of pretending that the foundation was not built by the CDC, while at the time repackaging inherited work as Rescue achievements and sold to a struggling population as something new under the so-called ARREST Agenda.

Even more troubling, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai increasingly contradicts himself in public. Recently on ELBC radio, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai stated that the Mano River Union (MRU) was paying for his US\$10 million villa in Foya. Today, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai says the Government of Liberia (GOL) is paying. These statements cannot both be true. Which one should Liberians believe? Why does President Joseph Nyuma Boakai keep giving conflicting explanations on a matter involving millions of dollars and public trust?

Leadership requires clarity, consistency, and honesty—not confusion and inconsistency as with the FOYA projects and many policies of the Boakai regime.

The CDC rebuttal to this 2026 SONA shifts away from the Rescue slogans and examines actual outcomes the affect the bread and butter issues of the Liberia people. We measure governance by the condition of households, the security of institutions, and the durability of services. On those measures, the Rescue Mission has fallen short and has become as “EXCUSE MISSION”

THE ECONOMY: STATISTICS WITHOUT LIVELIHOODS

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai boasts of growth figures, reserves, and record domestic revenue. But the CDC reminds Liberians of an important truth: every government since the return to democratic rule has expanded the revenue envelope—through, consumption, taxation policies reforms, and improved collection systems. Hence, rising revenue alone is not evidence of exceptional governance especially through higher taxation, but how such revenue is utilized to improve the livelihood of the ordinary people.

The real test is whether revenue translates into relief. Today, behind every statistic is a struggling household. Civil servants, market women, students, motorcyclists, and graduates live under constant economic anxiety. Prices remain high, jobs scarce, and purchasing power weak. If the economy were truly improving in people’s lives, Liberians would not be debating survival every single day.

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai also claims 70,000 youth have been employed. We ask plainly: in which counties are these jobs? Where are the employment centers? Where are the payrolls? Where are the beneficiaries? Because across Liberia, graduates roam the streets for years without work, families support educated children with no income, and young people are forced into informal survival instead of dignified employment.

Last year, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai promised 10,000 youth would be trained in ICT. This year, by his own admission, only about 1,000 have been trained. That is a 90 percent failure rate against his own promise. This is not opposition rhetoric; this is arithmetic. Is President Joseph Nyuma Boakai still campaigning in his SONA renewing promises instead of reporting deliverables!

Even more contradictory on the President’s claims of Job creation was the flagrant interference with the ECOWAS Appointment of Liberia’s former Foreign Minister Ambassador Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah, Sr as ECOWAS Ambassador to Sierra Leone. He was resisted as a persecution of perceived political opponents. This job eventually landed in the hands of a Ghanaian National. What a betrayal of a Liberian Citizen and the constitution!



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ROADS: RHETORIC, REBRANDING, AND BROKEN CAMPAIGN PROMISES

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai repeats that roads are a priority, saying they are not a slogan but a commitment. Yet Liberians remember a much louder pledge from President Joseph Nyuma Boakai during the campaign: “no car will get stuck in the mud after 100 days.”

Was that promise deliberate deception, or is the Rescue Government simply unable to execute basic road maintenance even with the availability of US\$22million in the first six months of the Boakai’s Administration? Because rural Liberia still experiences impassable roads during the rainy season, isolation during emergencies, and transport costs that punish farmers and traders. Many of the road works now being politically advertised were already contracted, financed, designed, or initiated under the CDC. Rebranding inherited projects does not change the lived reality of communities still cut off from opportunities.

Even more deceitful beyond rebranding inherited road projects is grossly overstating completed paved roads by additional 10.2% or 1,325km just within two years from about 1,275km (about 9.8 %) within 18yrs according to the AAID just record political achievement. If Boakai paved this amount road within two years was truthful, then the RIA

road expansion corridor would have been completed within six months of Boakai’s first year since that corridor is less than 100km.

NO STRATEGY FOR JOBS, NO URGENCY FOR AGRICULTURE

Nearly three years into power under President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Liberia should not still be waiting for a clear job creation engine. Temporary projects are not an employment strategy. Promises of future jobs do not feed families today.

Agriculture—on which more than 60 percent of Liberians depend remains neglected in real terms. Farmers still lack inputs, storage, irrigation, extension services, and reliable

farm-to-market roads. The much-publicized 285 yellow machines promised to improve rural roads have not been delivered in real operational form, yet the FY2026 budget shows no serious allocation to fulfill that pledge. Liberians are tired of paper machines and recycled announcements. Even the opportunity to directly increase government investment in agriculture given the 1.2billion dollar budget, the government has sadly resulted into allocating the incremental surplus projects and programs that have lesser economic returns however promote enrichment of officials of the regime.

EDUCATION Rhetoric Versus Reality

Education is both a social right and an economic investment. The CDC delivered measurable gains: 48 new elementary and secondary schools, 25 high schools in previously underserved districts, payment of WASSE fees, regularization of more than 3,600 supplementary teachers, free tuition for public universities benefiting over 30,000 students annually, faculty salary upgrades, facility renovations, and digitized registration.

Currently under the Rescue government there is persistent decline. This Government has allowed momentum to stall. Classrooms lack trained and motivated teachers; learning materials are scarce; volunteer teacher schemes are not matched with sustainable pay; and higher education shows signs of administrative neglect. These signs are evident on the campuses of the University of Liberia, Tubman University, and most community colleges in rural Liberia. The CDC encourages the regime to rise above current low quality in the educational systems - because them neglecting education today is practically equivalent to condemning tomorrow's future leaders of our country, something the CDC strongly rejects!

HEALTH From Investment to Decay

Under the CDC the health sector saw major investments in hospitals, equipment, and workforce organization. Today many facilities show signs of neglect. Health budgets have stagnated while security allocations have risen especially in the case of the NSA and LNP in the FY2026 Budget. Some health sector funds have been withheld or reallocated, depriving hospitals of needed supplies and operational support.

While the President is boasting of vaccination and immunization performance, a traditionally routine tasks fully supported by our International Partners, there was now show of major Government own achievement for 2025. Even the 2026 legislative agenda for sector remain unclear. The CDC wants to remind President Boakai and his government that main problem in the health is not only vaccination and immunization but a problem that surround health sector infrastrucure, logistics and workforce empowerment especially for the lower cadres workers including nurses, midwives, and others.

To resolve problem of workforce empowerment, the CDC in 2023 negotiated and sign salary adjustment agreement through a comprehensive pay grade for the sector and initiated implemented through the FY2024 Budget with an initial US\$5M. The intent was to significantly setup the salary of lower cadre of health workers - the Rescue upon inauguration recalled and after recast remove the US\$5M. The resulting impact today is nurses, midwives, and other cadres remain underpaid and demoralized, and continuously staging protests and work go -slow actions – resulting into reduce service availability and quality.

In the interest of the health workers, the CDC call on the Rescue government to restore and implement the health Paygrade MOU, protect health allocations, prioritize maintenance and equipping of hospitals, and strengthen community health systems.



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POLICE BRUTALITY AND INSECURITY: STABILITY IN WORDS, FEAR IN PRACTICE

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai speaks of peace and stability, but peace enforced through intimidation is not democracy. Under his administration, armed police demolished the CDC national headquarters while the matter was still before the Court. That act was not neutral law enforcement; it was a politically charged assault on the main opposition party.

The pattern continues with the suppression of dissent. After the December 17 peaceful protest, the government arrested and charged STAND Chairman Mulbah K. Morlu and others. These actions reinforce public perception that security agencies under President Joseph Nyuma Boakai operate with partisan bias—targeting critics while shielding allies.

THE JUDICIARY: INDEPENDENCE OR A TOOL AGAINST POLITICAL OPPONENTS?

President Joseph Nyuma Boakai praises the rule of law, yet his administration has presided over grave constitutional controversies, including the forceful removal of Speaker J. Fonati

Koffa and repeated executive disregard for Supreme Court authority when rulings conflicted with regime interests.

A judiciary that is celebrated in speeches but undermined in practice cannot stabilize Liberia. Selective enforcement of justice erodes confidence, fuels instability, and discourages investment.

A NEW NATIONAL EMERGENCY: ILLICIT DRUGS AND SOCIAL DECAY

Liberia today faces a deepening crisis of illicit drugs, especially among young people. Communities are overwhelmed by drug abuse, addiction, and the violence and social breakdown that follow. Yet beyond announcements, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai's government has not delivered a comprehensive, funded, nationwide anti-drug response that combines enforcement, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation.

A nation battling gang-rape, sodomy, police brutality, economic hardship, looting, abuse of market women, visa cancellations, fake yellow machines, and mass corruption cannot afford half-measures on drugs. The failure to confront this crisis decisively is another broken promise of the Rescue Government.

ZERO INTENT FOR RECONCILIATION - AND SUPPORT OF TOXIC AND DIVISIVE TENDENCIES:

After a heavily contested elections in 2023 in which Unity Party Alliance narrowly emerged victorious with less than 20,000 votes, any reasonable person who easily thinks that National reconciliation and unification would have been the pursuit of the Boakai's government. This looks easily more revealing given the age of the President Boakai as one of the oldest elected presidents of Liberia and his so pronounced 40yrs of government experience.

But regrettably, the rescue government chose the opposite path and are relentlessly executing anti - reconciliatory and divisive governance style with President Boakai personally leading the charge.

In President Boakai's SONA, he elaborated his most sucessful reconciliation achievement as the Official reburial of two of Liberia slain Presidents; Samuel Doe and William R. Tolbert. While reconciling with the dead is good, but pursuing more divisive tendencies with living is counter productive to national growth and stability.

Besides these official reburial, and since two years more than two National Unification days have passed and not a single national reconciliation or unification's event have been held inviting the immediate former President Weah and other critical opposition leaders to discuss the path of reconciliation and national healing after a heavily contested and divided elections. Instead over the past two years, President Boakai has prioritized denying the former president executive privileges, pursuing and demolishing the former headquarters of the CDC under the disguise of court enforcement, selectively and political prosecuting former officials of the Weah government under the disguise of fighting corruption, and illegally dismissing more 2000 civil servants and several tenure officials of the Weah Administration under the disguise of payroll cleanup and enforcement of code of conduct. Contrary to Boakai's anti- reconciliatory and division style of leadership which are celebrated and perpetuated by his Rescue officials and supporters, Former President Weah sought and implemented reconciliatory governance-measure that included regular visitation and support to President Boakai when he was former VP and political leader of the Opposition Unity Party, organization of reconciliation summit and dialogue with opposition community within just one year of his leadership which was held at the Bella Casa Hotel, an hotel owned by the then chairman of the opposition Unity Party. A strong statement of former President Weah reconciliatory style of government also and very importantly included maintaining all UP officials who held tenured position without illegal and discriminatory dismissing them.



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In the name of genuine reconciliation, the CDC challenge President Boakai to take concrete steps in promotion national unity and peaceful coexistence. This challenge includes President Boakai himself taking steps which eventually will be followed by his officials and supporters a very important precondition to sustainable political stability and economy growth.

CONCLUSION: WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PROMISES?

Fellow Liberians, what happened to the promises made by President Joseph Nyuma Boakai and the Rescue Government? What happened to the urgency? What happened to delivery? Liberia does not need more campaigns disguised as SONA speeches. Liberia needs honesty, competence, reconciliation, jobs, justice, and leadership that speaks clearly and acts consistently. Until President Joseph Nyuma Boakai moves from recycled promises to measurable results that ordinary people can feel, the CDC will continue to speak, to question, and to stand with the Liberian people in defense of truth, democracy, and national dignity.

MAY GOD PRESERVE OUR DEMOCRACY AND SAVE LIBERIA AND LIBERIANS FOR THE WANTON ABUSES!