



**LIBERIA
DIASPORA
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**
BUILDING THE FUTURE TOGETHER



Liberian Government Concludes Engagement With Diaspora Citizens With Commitment to Establish a Diaspora Investment Fund and Diaspora Engagement Commission

Washington, D.C., September 28, 2025: The Government of Liberia and the Liberian diaspora community today concluded a three-day diaspora engagement conference in Washington, DC., the United States of America, with a call by President Boakai for Liberians and people of Liberian descent in the global diaspora to invest in and begin to participate fully in the country's economy. While acknowledging the enormous contributions of Liberians in the diaspora to the country's recovery, the President challenged his countrymen and women to consider a more sustainable development approach by investing in small and medium-sized businesses to create jobs, noting, Liberia is ready and needs your engagement "the doors are open."

To support the process, President Boakai pledged that his administration will work towards the creation of a diaspora investment fund as well as a diaspora commission to facilitate investment and trade, as well as the administration's continuous engagement with Liberians in the diaspora. He also announced his government's plans to create diaspora savings bonds that would enable his administration to invest in impactful development projects. President Boakai touted his government's road construction program, which he said is helping local people to travel and to participate in the national economy.

The President made the remarks on Sunday, September 28, 2025, at the close of a three-day diaspora engagement conference, which the government organized to engage with citizens in the global diaspora. The conference, themed "**Building the Future Together: Reconciliation, National Healing, Growth and Prosperity**," focused on four thematic areas which the organizers say were chosen by Liberians through a survey as the most pressing concerns. They include:

- 1) Reconciliation
- 2) Healthcare
- 3) Education, and
- 4) Investment and trade.

Liberians in the diaspora contribute hundreds of millions of dollars each year to the country's economy through remittances and philanthropy, and the government wants them to also invest in businesses and job creation to boost the country's economy.

The conference was organized through the Government's Office of Diaspora Affairs, which today also announced that there would be a program of return for diaspora Liberians and others in December this year. Mr. Erasmus Williams, the government's Diaspora Affairs Minister, announced that several African Americans and others will participate in the Year of Return, where several will be granted Liberian citizenship.

Thousands of Liberians participated in the three-day dialogue, both in person and virtually.

The conference, the first of its kind for Liberians in the diaspora, was envisioned by President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, who committed his State of the Nation address in January to engage with Liberians everywhere in furtherance of his agenda for national unity and development. During his State of the Nation address in January 2025, the President pledged that his government would engage with Liberians in the diaspora and encourage them to invest in the development of their country and participate in its social and economic renaissance.

Also speaking at the conference, the President Pro Tempore of the Liberian Senate, Mrs. Nyonblee Karnga-Lawrence pledged that the Senate will pass laws to encourage its diaspora citizens to invest in the country. Senator Karnga-Lawrence also promised to set up a Senate diaspora Council to ensure that the voices of the Liberian diaspora community are fully included in the national discourse, including in legislation. The Senate leader also promised budgetary appropriations towards a diaspora investment fund, as well as to set up government offices in Australia, Canada, and other parts of the world where there are growing Liberian populations.

The Representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Liberia, Mr. Alieu Dia, as well as the Liberia Regional Director for the International Organization of Migration (IOM) Sylvia Ekra challenged Liberians to channel their remittances into creating factories and employment opportunities and the country's health, education, agriculture and technology sectors, pointing out that the diaspora's targeted investment could soften the impact created by cuts in international foreign aid, as well as accelerate the country's growth; adding that aid and remittances cannot drive the economic growth that the country needs.

Participants in the conference also discussed the role of the diaspora in achieving reconciliation and healing after years of political turmoil and a violent civil conflict. Since its civil war, Liberia has done very little towards achieving reconciliation, healing, and accountability. President Boakai told the audience that his government is committed to pursuing national healing, justice, good governance, and the rule of law. The President emphasized that the country cannot fully heal without accountability and social intervention programs for the provision of basic social services for citizens, particularly victims and vulnerable populations.

The President pointed to steps his administration has taken towards reconciliation and accountability, including the exhumation and reburial of the late President Samuel K. Doe who was killed during the country's civil war, a memorial service for President William R. Tolbert who was killed in a Coup d'états, and thirteen officials of his administration who were executed shortly after the coup, as steps at promoting healing. President Boakai also touted his Executive Order **151**, which constituted a special commission to devise mechanisms for accountability for war and economic crimes, and his July 5, 2025, public apology on behalf of the government to victims and all Liberians for the country's violent past. The President highlighted improvements in healthcare, education, road construction, reforms in the justice system, and the fight against corruption as signs of his administration's commitment to good governance and social transformation.

Speaking to journalists at the close of the conference, Hon. Nathaniel T. Kwabo, the Director General of the Cabinet, said that the government hopes that the diaspora conference and other consultations with citizens at home and abroad will generate proposals from the public on how to achieve genuine reconciliation, accountability, and national unity. He noted that the government is committed to engaging with its citizens everywhere as part of its commitment to listening to and addressing the pressing needs of citizens.

Also speaking at the close of the conference, Amb. Emmett Dunn, the chairperson of the Conference Planning Committee, pointed to what he described as a gap between Liberia and Liberians in the diaspora due to a lack of engagement by the government with Liberians in the diaspora. Amb. Dunn expressed joy that the Boakai administration has begun steps to engage with Liberians everywhere, noting that diaspora Liberians have significant potential that must be tapped into and brought to bear in the country's development agenda. Dunn noted further, "This gathering is more than an event. We are launching a movement to bridge the gap between the homeland and the Diaspora, to foster meaningful dialogue, and to inspire collective action for the progress of Liberia."

Dunn described the conference as a patriotic undertaking through which Liberians can unite and come up with solutions to the country's challenges, adding that no one will do it for us but ourselves.

By the Communications Portfolio

Liberia Annual Diaspora Conference