

KEYNOTE ADDRESS By His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., President of the Republic of Liberia at the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Extension of the Japan Freeway

Freeport of Monrovia

Friday, July 3, 2026

Your Excellency Ambassador Hiroshi Yoshimoto, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan;

Our Representative Representing the Legislature;

Dean and Members of the Cabinet;

The Country Representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA);

The Managing Director of the National Port Authority and other

Officials of Government;

Representatives of the Dai Nippon Construction Co., Ltd.;

Representatives of the Eight-Japan Engineering Consultants Inc.;

Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Development Partners;

Traditional Leaders;

Members of the Fourth Estate;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

Over the past three months, we broke ground on two major road corridors central to my Administration's development agenda: 255 kilometers of roads in western Liberia and the Mendikorma-Voinjama Highway in the northwestern region of our country.

The development of these two corridors lays a strong foundation for our broader goal of expanding infrastructure and opening the country to greater socio-economic opportunity.

This morning, we continue that commitment by breaking ground to improve another major thoroughfare—one that links the commercial center of Monrovia to the rest of the city and its surrounding suburbs.

The Project, whose construction begins today, extends the Japan Freeway from the Freeport of Monrovia to the Gabriel Tucker Bridge. Although measuring only 1.9 kilometers, this road is one of the most strategically important transport corridors in our country.

It is the lifeline of Liberia's economy, linking the nation's principal seaport to the capital and supporting the daily movement of people, goods, and commerce, as well as regional trade. By modernizing it, we will strengthen economic activity, improve mobility, reduce travel time, and enhance the daily lives of thousands who depend on it. When completed, the Project will feature climate-resilient infrastructure and provide a lasting solution to the chronic flooding that has long affected this corridor. It will improve drainage, provide durable pavement, improve lighting, enhance pedestrian safety, and improve traffic flow.

The Project is an investment of approximately Japanese Yen 2.7 billion, equivalent to about United States Dollars 16 million, financed entirely through the Government of Japan's generous Grant Aid.

On behalf of the Government and people of Liberia, I extend our profound appreciation to the Government and people of Japan for their friendship and generous support over many decades. This ceremony is a celebration of an enduring friendship between two nations and a demonstration of what genuine international partnership can achieve.

Japan has remained one of Liberia's most trusted development partners. Through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the people of Japan have invested in our roads, bridges, ports, health care, education, agriculture, food assistance, and human capacity development. These investments have improved lives and strengthened Liberia's recovery.

Many Liberians still remember this road as Somalia Drive. After its reconstruction with generous assistance from the Government of Japan, this important corridor became a model of modern road infrastructure in Liberia. In recognition of this extraordinary contribution and enduring friendship, the Government of Liberia appropriately renamed the corridor the Japan Freeway, a permanent tribute to this partnership.

Fellow Liberians, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am pleased that this Project is expected to create approximately 175 jobs for Liberians during construction. Beyond these direct jobs, the project will also create opportunities for local suppliers, transport operators, service providers, and surrounding businesses, thereby multiplying its economic impact throughout the community.

This investment directly aligns with my Administration's ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development, which recognizes modern infrastructure as a key driver of economic transformation, private-sector growth, job creation, dignity of life, and improved public service delivery.

My Government remains committed to this agenda. We will continue to seek ways to expand and modernize Liberia's transportation network through strategic partnerships with development partners and the private sector.

To the Ministry of Public Works, I commend your leadership and professionalism in bringing this important Project from concept to implementation.

To JICA, Dai Nippon Construction Co., Ltd., and Eight-Japan Engineering Consultants, Inc., I encourage you to maintain the excellent cooperation that has defined this partnership since its inception.

To the residents, businesses, and road users along this corridor, I ask for your patience and cooperation during construction.

Finally, let me reaffirm Liberia's deep gratitude to the Government and people of Japan.

It is now my honor, on behalf of the people of Liberia, to officially declare the Extension of the Japan Freeway Project launched and to proceed with the groundbreaking.

I thank you.