

Keynote Address

By

His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr.

President of the Republic of Liberia

On the Occasion of the Dedication of the Modern Petroleum Product Testing Laboratory
and 12,800 MT Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) Storage Tank and

Groundbreaking for the Product Storage Terminal Expansion & Modernization Project

Hosted by the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company (LPRC)

LPRC Product Storage Terminal (PST), Bushrod Island, Monrovia, Liberia

Monday, October 26, 2026

Honorable Members of the National Legislature Present;

Honorable Ministers and Other Officials of Government;

Hon. Aaron J. Wheagar, I, Chairman, and Members of the LPRC Board of Directors;

Hon. Amos B. Tweh, Managing Director of LPRC, and Members of Management;

Representatives of Lutech Engineering;

Distinguished Invited Guests and Stakeholders;

The Dedicated Employees of LPRC;

Members of the Press;

Fellow Liberians;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good afternoon!

Today, I am pleased to return to the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company's Product Storage Terminal for an occasion that marks another important milestone in our nation's development. This is my third visit to this facility as President of the Republic of Liberia, and each visit represents an important chapter in LPRC's continuing transformation.

During my first visit, I had the privilege of breaking ground for the construction of the modern Petroleum Product Testing Laboratory and the 12,800 metric-ton Premium Motor Spirit storage tank. Today, we return to dedicate those completed facilities.

My second visit marked another historic achievement--LPRC's first-ever direct importation of refined petroleum products, representing a significant advancement in the Company's commercial development.

And today, on my third visit, we are not only celebrating the completion of two important national investments; we are also breaking ground for an ambitious US\$35 million expansion and modernization of LPRC's Product Storage Terminal. These three visits demonstrate an important principle of national development:

Fellow Liberians,

Energy security is fundamental to our nation's economic stability and long-term development. Our transportation systems, agricultural activities, mining operations, industries, businesses, and essential public services all depend on the reliable availability of petroleum products.

As a country that relies heavily on imported refined petroleum products, Liberia remains vulnerable to international supply disruptions, logistical challenges, and fluctuations in global petroleum markets.

While we cannot control international market conditions, we have a responsibility to strengthen our national infrastructure and improve our ability to respond to these challenges. That is why investments in petroleum storage, product quality assurance, modern logistics, and operational safety are so important.

Today, the dedication of the Modern Petroleum Product Testing Laboratory represents an advance in our national capacity to strengthen petroleum quality assurance, product integrity, and consumer protection. Similarly, the newly constructed 12,800 MT Premium Motor Spirit Storage Tank expands LPRC's storage infrastructure and strengthens its ability to support reliable petroleum supplies. These facilities represent investments in the safety, stability, and efficiency of Liberia's petroleum sector.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, we also begin another important chapter with the groundbreaking for the US\$35 million Product Storage Terminal Expansion and Modernization Project. This investment will add 50,000 metric tons of commercial petroleum storage capacity, supported by modern automated systems, improved operational infrastructure, and enhanced safety facilities.

It will also introduce Liberia's first petroleum marine back-loading capability, creating opportunities for petroleum products to be transferred from shore-based storage facilities onto vessels for coastal and regional distribution. The project further incorporates coastal defense infrastructure and land reclamation to protect and expand this important national asset.

I am particularly encouraged by the transformation taking place in LPRC's share of national petroleum storage capacity. At the beginning of our Administration, LPRC accounted for approximately 29 percent of Liberia's total national petroleum storage capacity.

Upon completion of this expansion project, that share is expected to increase to approximately 50 percent. This represents a significant strengthening of LPRC's strategic position within Liberia's petroleum sector.

But let me emphasize that our objective is not simply to construct more storage tanks or expand physical infrastructure. Our objective is to strengthen Liberia's energy security, improve national economic resilience, and create the conditions for greater investment, productivity, and prosperity.

Fellow Liberians,

The true value of these investments must be reflected in the opportunities they create for our people. We expect these projects to support employment creation, technical skills development, and greater participation by qualified Liberian workers, contractors, and businesses.

Importantly, the introduction of marine back-loading capability provides a foundation for Liberia to explore new opportunities in regional petroleum storage and distribution. Our geographic location along the West African coast presents opportunities that we must continue to develop through strategic investments, efficient infrastructure, and responsible commercial partnerships.

Let us, however, be mindful that infrastructure development is not an end in itself. The success of these investments must ultimately be measured by their contribution to economic growth, employment opportunities, national energy security, and improved livelihoods for the Liberian people.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we celebrate these achievements, I wish to emphasize the importance of transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of national resources. The investments we are dedicating today, together with the expansion project, represent significant commitments to Liberia's future.

I therefore expect the LPRC Board of Directors and Management to ensure that these facilities are properly maintained and that the expansion project is executed with the highest standards of financial discipline, technical quality, environmental responsibility, and operational safety.

Public institutions must demonstrate their value through responsible management, measurable results, and meaningful contributions to national development. That is the standard we must continue to uphold.

I wish to commend the Chairman, Honorable Aaron J. Wheagar, I, and the Members of the LPRC Board of Directors for their strategic guidance and oversight.

Let me particularly commend the Managing Director, Hon. Amos B. Tweh, and his Management Team for their dedication and leadership in advancing these important projects.

Honorable Tweh's transformational leadership and the remarkable progress being made at LPRC demonstrate what is possible when capable, well-prepared young Liberians are entrusted with leadership responsibilities and given the opportunity to excel. His achievements remind us that effective leadership is defined not by age, but by vision, competence, integrity, and the ability to deliver meaningful results.

To the hardworking employees of LPRC, I extend my appreciation for your dedication and continued service to our country. I also acknowledge Lutech Engineering, the implementing partner for the expansion project, and encourage the highest standards of professionalism, quality, and timely execution.

To all government institutions, technical professionals, contractors, and stakeholders who have contributed to these achievements, I extend my sincere appreciation.

Fellow Liberians,

Today, we celebrate more than the completion of two infrastructure projects and the beginning of another. We celebrate the importance of continuity, responsible investment, and the determination to strengthen our national institutions.

My first visit to this facility marked the beginning of two important projects. My second visit witnessed a historic breakthrough in LPRC's commercial operations. And today, during my third visit, we dedicate those completed facilities and launch another major investment in Liberia's petroleum infrastructure.

These milestones demonstrate what can be accomplished when national priorities are supported by institutional commitment, responsible leadership, and effective implementation. The true measure of these achievements will not be the size of the facilities we construct, but the lasting difference they make in the lives of the Liberian people.

As President of the Republic of Liberia, I remain committed to supporting responsible infrastructure investments that advance our national development priorities and serve the long-term interests of our people.

It is therefore my pleasure to formally dedicate the Modern Petroleum Product Testing Laboratory and the 12,800 MT Premium Motor Spirit Storage Tank. And with equal pride and optimism, I join you in breaking ground for the US\$35 million LPRC Product Storage Terminal Expansion and Modernization Project.

May these investments strengthen our national economy, protect our energy future, and serve the Liberian people for generations to come. May God bless the LPRC. May God bless our beloved Republic of Liberia.

I thank you.