

STATEMENT BY HONORABLE JEREMIAH KPAN KOUNG, SR. VICE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING
OF THE 41ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ECOWAS BROWN CARD
INSURANCE SCHEME, HELD IN MONROVIA ON NOVEMBER 25, 2025.

Honorable Members of the National Legislature

The Governor and Officials of the Central Bank of Liberia

Governors and Executives from National Banks across the ECOWAS Sub-region

Cabinet Ministers and Officials of Government

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Invited Guests

Distinguished Delegates

The Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

I bring you warm greetings from His Excellency, Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr, President of the Republic of Liberia. The President had looked forward to personally join this distinguished Assembly, but is unable due to pressing international duties, he has asked me to convey his deep appreciation for your work and his unwavering commitment to regional integration and cooperation.

It is an honor to address this 41st General Assembly under the timely and fitting theme: “50 years of subregional integration: contribution of the ECOWAS Brown Card Insurance Scheme to the mechanism of free movement of people, goods and services within the region.”

For half a century, ECOWAS has worked with determination to break down barriers, build trust across borders, and create a region defined not by division but by shared purpose. The ECOWAS Brown Card Insurance Scheme stands as one of the most practical and successful instruments of that vision, an initiative that transforms our political commitments into real, daily impact for our citizens.

The Brown Card Scheme is more than an insurance mechanism. It is a symbol of protection, mobility, and opportunity for our people.

It assures every traveler, every entrepreneur, every transporter, and every worker that they can move within our region with confidence, knowing that their rights, their property, and their safety are backed by a unified subregional system.

For Liberia, this Scheme has carried profound importance. Our economy is deeply linked with regional trade and transport. With growing cross-border commercial activity and the expansion of our road corridors, the Brown Card Scheme has become a vital tool for:

- Facilitating trade and easing the cost of doing business
- Supporting transport unions and commercial drivers
- Boosting cross-border commerce for our SMEs
- Enhancing safety, fairness, and accountability on our roads
- Strengthening investor confidence in a predictable business environment

Its contribution is fully aligned with the President's ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development. By ensuring the free and safe movement of people, goods, and services, we can build a resilient economy, and the Brown Card Scheme plays a decisive role in that effort.

Here in Liberia, our Insurance Sector is making significant strides. As part of our commitment to meeting the financial convergence criteria under the ECOWAS single currency and central banking framework, we have submitted a draft Insurance Commission Act to the National Legislature.

When enacted, this law will establish an independent regulatory authority for the insurance sector, align our operations with international standards, and create conditions that will spur growth and innovation.

This reflects our determination to build a financial system that is strong, modern, and responsive to the needs of our citizens and regional partners.

As Liberia works to modernize its transport sector, expand regional commerce, and create a more enabling environment for businesses, the Brown Card Insurance Scheme remains a strategic partner. It complements our national reforms,

strengthens our integration into regional markets, and supports the government's drive for inclusive growth.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this 50th anniversary year of ECOWAS, we are reminded that integration is not a concept we admire from afar, it is a daily practice that demands action, hard work and unity. It requires systems that work, institutions that deliver, and member states that honor their commitments.

The Brown Card Scheme has shown what is possible when we match vision with action!

Therefore, Liberia reaffirms its commitment to this Scheme and calls for its continued modernization, to leverage digital systems, enhance compliance, and broaden public awareness so that its benefits reach every corner of our region.

As we look ahead, let us deepen our cooperation. Let us strengthen the structures that protect our citizens and empower our economies. And let us ensure that the next 50 years of ECOWAS are defined by even greater mobility, prosperity, and unity for our people.

On behalf of His Excellency the President, I congratulate all political and financial leaders of the ECOWAS Sub-region, and all stakeholders for your dedication to this noble vision.

Liberia stands with you as a proud partner in building a safer, more integrated, and more prosperous West Africa.

In the name of the President and people of Liberia, I formally declare the 41st Assembly of the ECOWAS Brown Card Insurance Scheme open.

Thank you and may God bless the ECOWAS Community and the Republic of Liberia.