



ASSETS RECOVERY & PROPERTY RETRIEVAL CORE TASK FORCE (AREPT)

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PRESS STATEMENT

Honorable Minister of Information, Deputy Minister of state for special services, Madam Vice-Chair and Members of the Assets Recovery and Property Retrieval Task Force, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press.

On behalf of the Assets Recovery and Property Retrieval Task Force, I want to use this medium to express gratitude to the Honorable Minister of Information for the opportunity accorded us, to give our first major press briefing since the announcement of Executive Order # 126 and our appointment to this national cause by the president, His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai.

Honorable Ministers, ladies and gentlemen of the press, we consider this responsibility as a national cause, on grounds, that this is a symbol of national preparedness by President, to declare war on corruption and restore hope to the Liberian people by retrieving stolen assets, that were diverted to private use by employees and formal officials of government.

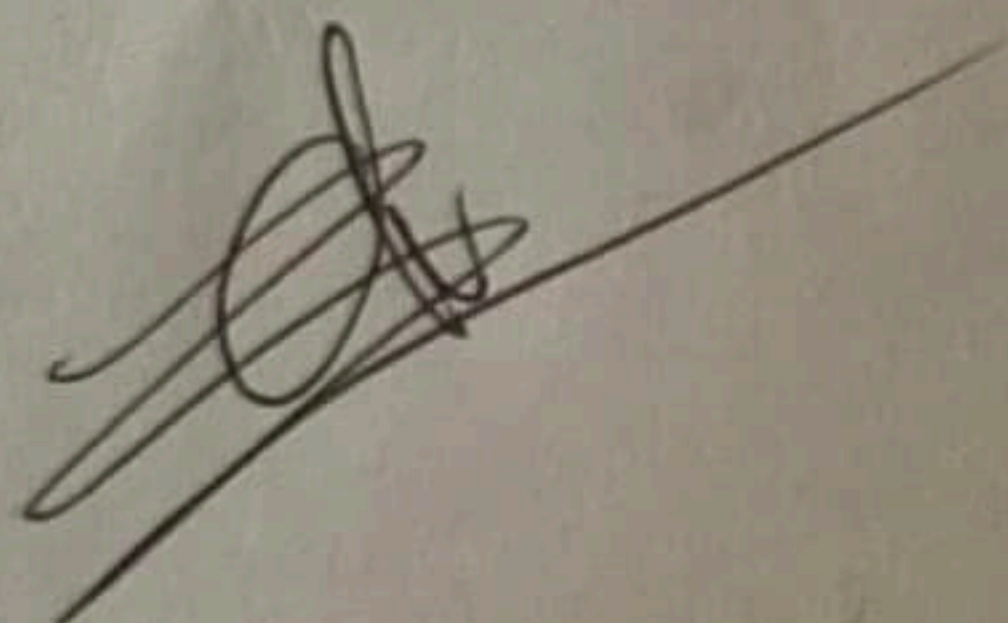
The purpose of this Executive Order is to open a new chapter for good governance and accountability. The path of good governance and accountability is the apparatus on which, civilized nations of the world are built. Civilized nations, are nations that are built on the tenants of democracy, good governance, accountability and rule of law. Unlike civilized nations, corrupt nations are vouchers that destroy the existence of the state and its people. The negative results of corrupt nations are abject poverty, poor health care delivery program, underdevelopment, bad roads, poor educational programs and bad salaries for employees of the system.

Honorable Ministers, ladies and gentlemen of the press, Liberia as a nation state, has been victimized by bad governance, corruption and theft over the past. Evidence of these are poverty, massive underdevelopment and hardship. The pronouncement of Executive Order #126 is a redemption for the Liberian people and their state from the slavery of corruption, theft and bad governance. This is an indication that Liberia is gravitating to the expectation of the world, where the tenants of democracy, good governance, accountability and the rule of law are key initiatives for international recognition.

Today, the Assets Recovery and property retrieval Task Force has been fully constituted, commissioned and charged with the power to perform its duties and responsibilities in line with the rule of law and without fear or favor. We consider this charge as a national responsibility and by this, it is anticipated of us, to perform to the expectation of the Liberian people and that of this Government. We uphold this, as an opportunity to be the first Task force under this government with the power and responsibility to recover stolen assets and retrieve properties from employees, former officials and private individuals who obtained same through illegal means.

We pledge to the people of Liberia and this government, that we will perform said responsibility to its maximum. In consonance with the law, we will be fearless, robust, drastic and strong. In the execution of our duties, no person(s), despite his or her former portfolio, will be exempted as the full weight of the law will not be selective in its application.

Honorable Ministers, ladies and gentlemen of the press, to hit the ground running, the Taskforce has commenced the process of properties retrieval from employees, private individuals and past officials of government who illegally obtained them. We want to use this occasion to call on all agencies, ministries and corporations that we have contacted, to submit inventories of properties, that we have selected for retrieval.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

We also want to use this medium to caution employees, private individuals and former officials of government, who are in possession of government properties, to surrender same to the task force. On this note, the Taskforce is granting ten (10) days grace period, commencing March 22 to March 31, 2024, to those mentioned supra, to voluntarily surrender all state properties to avoid unspecified legal actions or consequences.

Meanwhile, the Taskforce wants to call on all garages that are currently in the habit of changing colors, vent and sache numbers of government vehicles to immediately desist. The Task force has gotten intelligence of all those garages involved in said criminal act.

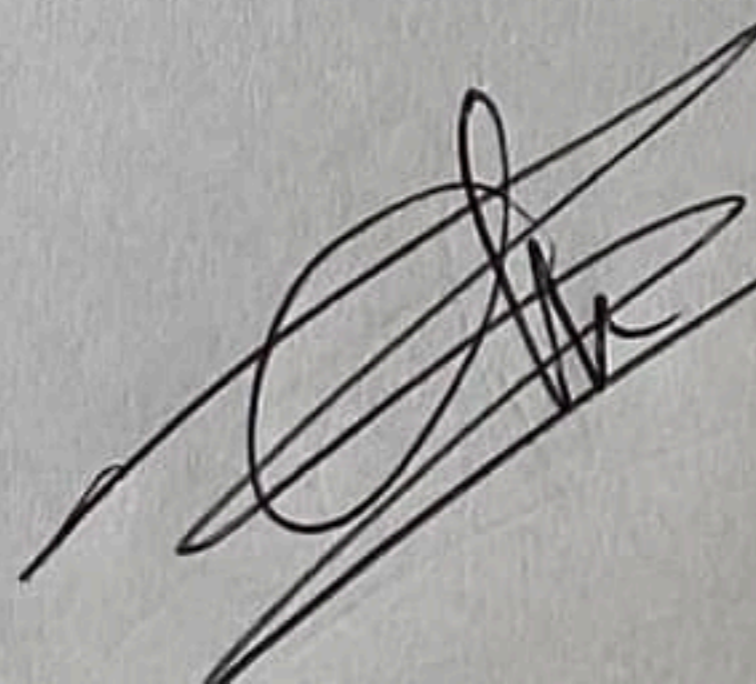
On the issue of Assets recovery, which is the second phase of our work. This portion of our responsibility borders on financial crimes and corruption investigations. Our financial crimes investigators are currently reviewing reports and other information gather thru our intelligence on theft and corruption of government's assets. These reports and intelligence will be investigated and thereafter proceeds of those crimes that were converted into liquid and fixed assets (both home and outside Liberia) by private individuals who transacted in bad business deals with government and former officials of government, will be legally confiscated thru a court of competent jurisdiction.

We are calling on the public to assist the Taskforce with all relevant intelligence and information. Your name and identity will be protected. We can be reached through the following means:

Email: liberiaassetsrecovery@gmail.com

WhatsApp: +231880358205

Call: +231778611836 / +231880358205

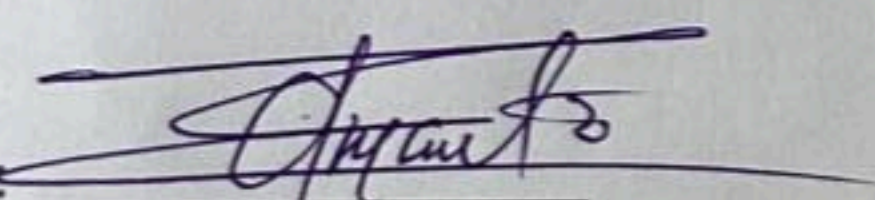


Honorable Ministers, ladies and gentlemen of the press, let me clarify that this is not to witch-hunt a particular group. Our recovery and retrieval processes will be on the basis of cogent evidence. No one will be falsely incriminated on the basis of political affiliation. The legal chain of custody will be our guiding tool to establish the magnitude of our investigations.

Meanwhile, in line with our duties and responsibilities, the Task force will soon release the names of persons of interests that will be placed on Ne Exeate Republica. These persons of interest have been captured as major suspects in our financial crimes and corruption investigations. The Taskforce is also aware of the illegal movement of liquid assets and is currently working with its intelligence to trace the domestic and international locations of those stolen assets. Howbeit, we are calling on all joint security at the various borders to remain vigilant.

To conclude, I am calling on all Liberians to assist this national endeavor. This initiative has set the stage for Liberia to regain its dignity and reputation in the international community.

I thank you.

Signed: 

Cllr. Edwin Kla Martin
Chairman

