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The 100-Day Deliverables: An Insight into President Boakai's Performance

Monrovia, Liberia - May 13, 2024

As President Joseph Nyumah Boakai completes his first 100 days in office, Naymote Partners for Democratic Development is pleased to present a summary of its findings from comprehensive tracking and monitoring of the government's implementation of commitments and promises. Following President Boakai's inauguration on January 22, 2024, the Unity Party-led government released a document titled "100-Day Deliverables," outlining twelve (12) key objectives aimed at achieving targeted milestones within the initial 100 days. The overarching goal of this plan was to demonstrate short-term progress, laying the groundwork for a broader National Development Agenda, as articulated in the "ARREST" vision, while fostering transparency and momentum for transformative change nationwide. Accomplishing these milestones is vital for establishing credibility and trust with the public and laying the foundation for fulfilling broader campaign promises over the next six (6) years.

Progress Overview:

The Boakai-led administration has tackled a robust plan with 107 deliverables spanning multiple sectors since taking office. Of these, 11 constituting 10% are completed, 45 constituting 42% are in progress, and 51 constituting 48% remain unrated due to the lack of available information, signalling the need for proactive measures to fulfil commitments to the Liberian populace.

Notably, actions have been observed in sectors like telecommunications, aviation, and agriculture. For instance, agricultural initiatives include restructuring governance boards and devising plans for equipment mobilization, while the telecommunications sector saw the revival of the e-Liberia website for improved public service access.

Sector Highlights:

Infrastructure Development and Public Works Initiatives: Notable progress has been made in road infrastructure projects across the country, including major corridors like Toe's Town to Zwedru and Salayea to Voinjama. Additionally, vital drainage cleaning exercises are underway in central Monrovia and other areas, enhancing urban resilience and mitigating flood risks. **Of the 11 interventions under the Ministry of Public Works actions were taken on all but none were completed.**

Telecommunications Advancements: The reactivation of the e-Liberia website and LTC's introduction of a 24-bandary management system signify significant advancements in digital services and revenue generation. Together with the constitution of a committee to review contracts and partnerships, and the introduction of new Quality of Services Regulations, the government has "completed" 4 out of 11 initiatives committed to fulfilling within the first 100 days in Office in sector **two (2) were in progress and five (5) were not rated.** The Committee has reviewed four (4) major contracts and partnerships including the Space wide- responsible for mobile networks, K Comm - responsible for visa, and CBL -data center.

Education, gender, youth, and social protection initiatives:

We commend the President for setting aside a date for the conduct of the national county sports meet, constituting the Board of the Higher Commission on Education, and budget, within the fiscal year 2024, for the payment of WAEC Fees for all 9th and 12th graders. However, despite the government's reaffirmed dedication to narrowing the education gap among the youth population, no action has been taken to optimize the free tuition program, settle outstanding scholarships for local and international students, or complete the construction of 25 schools that are nearing completion.

Nonetheless, it is worth noting that the Ministry of Gender has initiated assessments of rape cases in the southeastern counties, marking a crucial first step toward fulfilling the government's commitment to conducting a nationwide assessment of rape cases. Overall, out of the outlined deliverables, the government has only achieved 2 working toward achieving 2 of the cluster deliverables.

Healthcare and Public Safety:

Overall, the government is making attempts to achieve all commitments made in this deliverable cluster. Recognizing the urgency of addressing public health challenges, the government has declared drug and substance abuse as a national public health emergency. President Boakai's announcement of tough anti-drug measures underscores the administration's resolve to combat substance abuse effectively, safeguarding the well-being of Liberian citizens.

Additionally, efforts to enhance access to essential medicines and medical commodities have been bolstered through partnerships with organizations like Medicine for All People (MAP). The recent donation of medication through a partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) underscores the government's commitment to improving healthcare delivery and ensuring equitable access to vital resources.

Political and Fiscal Governance Reforms: Progress has been observed in governance reform measures within various government institutions, though challenges remain in areas like contract awarding processes and fiscal rules introduction. Notably, progress has been observed within the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), particularly in the establishment of a Safety and Emergency Response Mechanism, the development of a multi-year planning process, and the initiation of the reconciliation process to achieve Revenue Accountability.

More so, efforts within the National Road Fund (NRF) to develop managerial and administrative procedures have seen some advancement, but initiatives like Policy/Political enforcement for accurate accounting are yet to be rated. Similarly, the National Transit Authority (NTA) has yet to develop effective management systems and procedures. The Ministry of Transport has not undertaken any initiatives towards achieving the Assets Verification and Accounting and Assessment of Traffic and Vehicle Registration Section. Similarly, the Administrative Revision of Service Charges to be carried out by the Liberia Telecommunication Authority (LTA) remains unrated.

The Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE) is yet to initiate any of the planned governance reforms, while President Boakai has constituted the Liberia Civil Aviation Authority (LCAA) Board of Directors, but initiatives like amending the LCAA Act are yet to be rated. In other sectors, such as the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

In economic and financial governance, there have been no efforts made towards the introduction of fiscal rules, while progress has been made in conducting audits. Some progress has been seen in certain sectors like the Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI), particularly with regards to the constitution of its Board, but nothing significant has been done to conduct a performance review of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Overall, out of the 33-governance reform-related deliverables, 18 remain “not rated,” indicating a need for proactive actions to be taken by the incumbent President to engender improvement in Liberia's governance framework.

Agriculture and Food Security:

The President has articulated a range of initiatives aimed at advancing agricultural development and ensuring food security. These include finalizing the Liberia Food Security Crisis Preparedness Plan and zero postharvest loss strategy, establishing an Agriculture and Industrial Development Bank, aligning intervention projects with national agricultural goals, and revising the Cooperative Societies Act to ease seafood exports, among others. Regrettably, concrete actions towards achieving these deliverables have not yet been documented.

Nevertheless, President Boakai has constituted Central Agriculture Research Institute's (CARI) boards which reflects strides in governance reform as earlier indicated. Progress is also apparent in CARI's development of a plan to enhance research capacity, which has been submitted for approval. Additionally, the ongoing pursuit of a National Agriculture Development Plan with support from the UN FAO underscores a commitment to long-term agricultural advancement.

Overall, among the 12 key deliverables, 3 are marked as "completed," 1 as "in progress," while the remaining 8 are designated as "not rated." This indicates a mixed status of achievement and underscores the need for sustained efforts to realize the outlined goals.

Looking Ahead

The government's achievements are commendable, but some promises are overly ambitious, posing challenges for timely fulfilment. Realistic goal-setting and effective prioritization are crucial for commitment fulfilment and bolstering the government's capacity.

To enhance transparency and accountability, reforms in the contract awarding process, such as competitive bidding and PPCC usage, are necessary. Single-sourcing procurement for high-value projects raises corruption concerns, emphasizing the need for a more transparent and competitive process for fair implementation.

Access to information is vital for tracking promise performance effectively. Enhanced data accessibility empowers accountability and comprehensive assessments. Improving transparency and information dissemination, **including ministerial performance contracts and an open government process, are imperative for efficient governance system.**

Naymote will prioritize monitoring campaigns and post-election promises, developing policy briefs for informed decision-making and governance accountability. Gratitude is expressed to

stakeholders for advancing the nation's development agenda, with a commitment to progress and prosperity for all.

While progress has been made in various sectors, proactive actions are needed to address pending commitments and enhance governance accountability. Naymote Partners for Democratic Development remains committed to monitoring and providing insightful analysis to facilitate informed decision-making and governance accountability.

Methodology:

The project utilized a comprehensive approach, combining various monitoring tools to evaluate performance against the 100-day Deliverables.

- **Data Extraction:** All interventions were directly extracted from the 100-Day Deliverables document to ensure accuracy and alignment with government objectives.
- **Media Monitoring:** Interventions were tracked through media monitoring, gathering information from diverse platforms to assess government performance accurately.
- **Field Visits:** On-site visits were conducted to verify project status and gather evidence, focusing on road construction sites.
- **Online Surveillance:** Monitoring extended to online platforms, capturing real-time information for thorough analysis.
- **Official Correspondence:** Written communications were sent to government officials to verify claims and ensure reporting accuracy.

About Naymote Partners for Democratic Development:

Founded in 2001 by student leaders and activists, Naymote Partners for Democratic Development is a prominent civil society organization dedicated to promoting accountable democratic governance, political transparency, and robust civic engagement not only in Liberia but also across the continent. Throughout its existence, Naymote has played a pivotal role in enhancing Liberia's democratic institutions and empowering citizens to actively participate in the governance arena.

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