

Remark by the Commissioner of the Liberia
Maritime Authority
At the Closing Dinner of the
8th Annual Conference of AAMA
Held in Monrovia, Liberia

Distinguished heads and members of
delegations;
Officials of the government of Liberia
present;
Specials invitees and speakers;
Members of the 4th estate;
Ladies and gentlemen.

As we come to the close of the 8th Annual
Conference of the Association of African
Maritime Administrations (AAMA), I would
like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all
of you for your active participation and
fruitful engagements over the past 4 days.
Your different expertise and diverse
experiences truly enriched these
discussions, and we have shared ideas,

built new friendships and relationships that will go a long way in bettering our respective administrations and our common African maritime domains.

The insightful debates and deliberations over the past 4 days have, once again revealed to me many realities that we must all note:

First, it has become even demanding to me that as African maritime administrations, we must continue to engage, discuss and share our experiences for the betterment of our respective administrations, national economies and the African continent.

Second, that the challenges confronting the maritime domain of Africa are not insurmountable, but require collective actions and commitment from all of us. It is also clear that there are opportunities staring at us, but until we take concrete and

tangible actions, they will remain mere opportunities.

Also, that no African country can address its challenges and utilize its opportunities alone, and it is not Africa versus the rest of the world. Instead, it is partnership, collaboration and the sharing of experiences and knowledge both at the continental and global stages.

Finally, that there is a genuine reason to be hopeful about the transformation of the maritime and blue economy sectors of our continent. We must seize this moment.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is pleasing to know that gender inclusion and diversity found a place on the agenda of the 8th AAMA Conference. As Africans, it is imperative that we take the issue of gender equality and inclusion one step further. At the Liberia Maritime Authority, we have made

women empowerment and inclusion a key policy issue. We have introduced a female-specific scholarship scheme, and through this policy we have awarded fully funded scholarships to 14 young Liberian girls to study at the Regional Maritime University in Ghana and have also sponsored a female student for graduate studies in Naval Architecture in India. She will be the first female Naval Architect in Liberia upon completing her studies. We are committed to making more investment in females to pursue studies in various areas of maritime. This for us represents the sustainable future we envisage for maritime governance in Liberia.

Distinguished delegates and friends, during the 34th Session of the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization scheduled to take place in about a month, members of the IMO Council will be elected.

Five African countries, namely, Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt, Kenya and Morocco will be contesting for Category “C” membership to the IMO Council. Liberia will be vying to retain its Category “A” membership to the council. As a continent, I urge you all in the words of our brothers from Nigeria and Kenya: **do not forget your African brothers.** Let us ensure to vote for our African brothers firstly before considering other countries from other continents. Africa deserves a place at the global table, and together the contesting countries are prepared to ably represent the continent.

Distinguished delegates and special guests, it has been a special privilege hosting you in Liberia. We are grateful for your participation and productive engagement. I am confident that this is the beginning of a renewed and enhanced relations between

the Liberia Maritime Authority and all African maritime administrations.

I hope you have enjoyed your stay, and I wish you safe travels back home. Thank you!