

TRANSITIONAL LEGISLATION

For the first time in decades, Liberia will be witnessing the peaceful transfer of power from one sitting president to another with the real possibility of the next president not being from the same party as the outgoing. Within this context and considering the recent political and governance history of Liberia, this could present a real challenge for the country especially if the new regime seeks to undo all the gains that have made in governance or spend a significant amount of time trying to witch hunt the past administration.

Under these conditions, the country's development could slow down and dangerous precedent could be set for succeeding administration and the political tension could increase as every election will be about political reprisal and settling of scores.

Even though there are laws on the books and we expect that every incoming administration will respect those laws, it is important that we remind ourselves and raise the importance of doing so because the stakes are too high for the country and its people. The result of the election will demonstrate that the Liberian people prefer one party over another for the purpose of governing but would have given no license to anyone to destroy or reverse the gains that have been made. The results of the elections would be a testament that the Liberian people believe that the incoming political party is well capable and qualified to take the country forward and increase the lots of the ordinary people.

Against this backdrop, it is important to capture these fears and hopes in a **Transitional Legislation** with the sole intention of protecting the country against the vagaries or caprices of men who might want, intentionally or unintentionally, to hurt the country. This Transitional Legislation will be an insurance policy intended to protect what was achieved and continue from that point.

The planks in the Legislation will be:

- 1. That projects that were started with Government resources will be continued and not abandoned;**
- 2. That contracts signed between the Government of Liberia and other contracting parties will be fully honored and respected;**

- 3. That debts contracted by agencies of the Government will be honored;**
- 4. That policies and regulations instituted by agencies of the Government based on Laws that were enacted will be fully honored until their expiration or genuine cause to change course and even at these changes will not be retroactive;**
- 5. That appointments with tenure that were made consistent with laws will be fully honored;**
- 6. That within 6 months to the end of the Government no contracts or agreement with long term binding effects should be entered unless those approved by the National Legislature;**
- 7. That within 6 months to the end of the Government, no public assets should be sold or transferred to anyone;**
- 8. That within 6 months to the end of the Government, no appointment to tenure positions should be made;**
- 9. Cases that have been fully resolved and disposed of by the Government cannot be reopened or reinvestigated without proper cause;**
- 10. The official transition process will start immediately after the October 10 elections which means that both parties in the runoff (if there is) will constitute transition teams that will begin working with the Government for smooth transfer of power;**
- 11. The transition team shall comprise on no more than 15 persons from each side;**
- 12. The outgoing President and Vice President shall be guaranteed proper security at their places of residence and work and Government shall be responsible to maintain no less than 10 special security officers to each of them;**

This framework legislation is intended to protect the state and not undermine the tenets of good governance. In cases where it can be judiciously established that laws were broken or that individuals acted criminally, appropriate actions should be taken to protect the state, its people, and assets.