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VP Boakai's Visit to the U.S. Highlights Education and Investment in Liberia

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Washington, D.C. – April 24, 2017: The Vice President of the Republic of Liberia, the Honorable Joseph N. Boakai, Sr., visited the United States from April 13-19, 2017. Vice President Boakai's visit was at the invitation of the City Council of Philadelphia, PA, Liberians and friends of Liberia. The visit, which took the Vice President to Philadelphia; Wilmington, DE; and Washington, D.C.; focused on creating awareness about Liberia's education and business potentials, among others, as well as generating support for education and encouraging U.S. investment in Liberia. In Philadelphia, Vice President Boakai delivered the keynote address at the Liberian Educational Forum held at the Drexel University, focusing on the growth of quality education in Liberia. He also delivered a keynote address at the Liberian Business Forum, where he provided



an overview of the state of the Liberian economy and investment possibilities in the country. Vice President Boakai said at the Business Forum that the Liberian government is focused on strategic investment, both domestic and foreign in value chain, plus downstream processed goods and in manufacturing. He added that the country also seeks to expand electricity distribution, as well as link creative financing for major small medium enterprises and commercially viable businesses. The Liberian Educational Forum and the Liberian Business Forum were organized under the auspices of the Philadelphia Mayor's Commission on African and Immigrant Affairs. The Vice President was accompanied at the various functions by Philadelphia Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell, among other officials. At a dinner in Wilmington, DE hosted by the Delaware African Coalition, Vice President Boakai expressed the need to explore areas for cooperation between Liberia and the State of Delaware. The Vice President also addressed a community town hall meeting, during which he updated Liberians and friends of Liberia about developments in Liberia. Among other activities while in Washington, Vice President Boakai launched the "Shoes for Liberian Children Project," which is focused on the collection of shoes and other footwear for destitute children in Liberia. Vice President Boakai said the issue of barefoot children has grown into a passion that drives him to find the best possible solutions to help barefoot children and orphans in Liberia because, as child growing up, he did not own a pair of shoes and walked to school barefooted in his village until he entered the 8th grade. The project is sponsored by the Patriots for Liberia's Transformation and the African Bible College in Yekepa, Nimba County, Liberia in collaboration with the Joseph Boakai Campaign for Barefoot Children. During his visit, the Vice President was accompanied by Hon. Jeff G. Dowana, Charge' d'Affaires of the Embassy of Liberia near Washington, D.C.

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