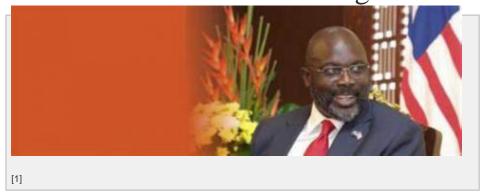


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H.E President George Manneh Weah lights the National Christmas Tree and calls on Liberians to hold together

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H.E. President George Manneh Weah, on December 17, 2021, switched on the National Christmas Tree light at the Executive Mansion on Capitol Hill.



The occasion was graced by Senior government officials, members of the Legislature, Judiciary, the Diplomatic Corps, and former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, among others.

In his message which was centered on love and unity, President Weah stated that the lighting of the National Christmas Tree symbolizes the official commencement of the festive season in Liberia. The President called on all to endeavor to extend a helping hand by sharing and showing love to family, friends and neighbors as stated in the Bible. He furthered that Liberia has weathered many storms, like the "harsh consequences of the COVID-19 crisis, and has triumphed, through toil and sweat over numerous adversities since its founding in 1822." According to the President, this is a testament of the resilience of the Liberian people.

He further stated that whatever superficial partition that has prevented Liberians from coming together as a people should be dispensed with during the festive seasons.

President Weah said Liberia will in 2022 celebrate 200 years of the arrival of the first batch of freed slaves on the shores of the country. He highlighted the importance of the Bicentennial celebrations as a "celebration for all Liberians void of political, religious or social affiliation" He said the government will "endeavor to showcase the country's rich history, its tourism potential and investment opportunities while also consolidating our lineage with the Liberian Diaspora and forging stronger ties with our foremost ally, the US."

He urged all Liberians living at home and abroad to hold together and "join hands" in building the nation. According to him, Liberians are stronger together.

The President then called on all to celebrate the Lord and Savior Jesus for all He has done for Liberia and its people and wished all a Merry Christmas, and Happy and Prosperous New Year.

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