LIBERIA APPLAUDS U.S. & INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR EBOLA SUPPORT

As Liberia makes significant progress in the fight to contain the Ebola Virus Disease, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has expressed profound thanks to the United States and the international community in general for responding massively to Liberia’s appeal for assistance to combat the deadly pandemic.

In her Annual Message (State of the Nation Address) on January 26, 2015, President Sirleaf paid homage to the United States, which, she noted, “took the lead” among members of the international community and partners in providing numerous human, technical, and material assistance to combat the Ebola outbreak.

Also in a nationwide address at the height of the Ebola scourge last September, President Sirleaf said: “On behalf of the Liberian people and in my own name, I want to thank President Obama and the American people for scaling up the response. I have also spoken to several members of the U.S. Congress who are giving President Obama the support that he needs.” (cont’d on pg 7)

LIBERIA BOUNCING BACK FROM THE EBOLA EPIDEMIC

Liberians are a resilient people who are able to overcome tremendous odds no matter what the situation. The resilience of Liberians is demonstrated by the ability of the people to survive decades of instability and a brutal civil war that left hundreds of thousands dead, and almost the entire country devastated.

Despite challenges along the way since the end of the civil upheaval in 2003, Liberia has made significant progress in national reconstruction, especially under the leadership of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. However, the country’s progress has been seriously undermined by the outbreak of the deadly Ebola Virus Disease in early 2014. After the first case of Ebola was recorded in Liberia on March 30, 2014 in Foya, Lofa County, the Liberian people found themselves faced with another existential threat - an invisible disease that spread and killed without discrimination, in some instances, leaving entire families or household dead. (cont’d on pg 6)
THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN ORPHANED BY EBOLA

One of the tragedies of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa is that thousands of children have been orphaned as a result of the pandemic, which killed their parents and others.

In her Annual Message (State of the Nation Address) on January 26, 2015, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said the Ebola scourge has left behind 3,000 orphans. The affected children have lost one or both parents to Ebola.

President Sirleaf noted that the government is required to provide love and care for the orphans.

We also appeal to people of goodwill the world over to assist the Government and people of Liberia in caring for the thousands of children who have been orphaned by the deadly Ebola disease.

National Health Plan Developed

In her Annual Message (State of the Nation Address) on January 26, 2015, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf noted that the Ebola disease exposed the vulnerability of Liberia’s health care system, which lacked the capacity, the systems and technical facilities and supplies to respond to infection, particularly an outbreak of this nature and magnitude.

“However,” she indicated, “the exposed nature of our health delivery system speaks to the need for sound structure and systems which go beyond professional medical capacity.”

In order to address Liberia’s health care challenges, President Sirleaf announced that a ten-year National Health Plan has been developed. She said the plan was developed by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, with support from the Clinton Global Initiative.

The Plan, which was formulated before the Ebola crisis, is under revision to provide the roadmap for transitioning from the treatment of Ebola to a robust health care system that will have facilities for infection control. This is aimed at preventing recurrence of the virus and for ensuring better health care delivery for the Liberian people, the President said.

The Liberian leader stated that the National Health Plan is intended to address the inadequacies in the health care delivery system through massive training of health workers and professionals at all levels, and an upgrading of the health system and facilities.
Amb. Sulunteh Calls for Partnership Between Liberia and Harvard Medical School

Liberia’s Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Jeremiah C. Sulunteh, has expressed Liberia’s desire for a partnership with Harvard University Medical School to support the designing and construction of medical emergency and disaster response centers in Liberia.

Ambassador Sulunteh was speaking January 29, 2015 at Harvard University Medical School in Boston, MA, at a forum to discuss the impact of the Ebola epidemic in West Africa. He spoke on the theme, “Challenges of the Ebola Outbreak in Liberia: the Social-economic Impact, and a call for Global Response.” The forum was attended by ambassadors and diplomatic representatives from several African countries, particularly those affected by the Ebola outbreak in 2014.

Ambassador Sulunteh said, “As training and transfer of knowledge is a key for our preparedness for the future, we would like to request that Liberian citizens be recruited and trained at Harvard in a wide range of medical and public health fields.”

He recommended that Harvard Medical School see the need to send some of its medical students for job training in Liberia, where they would have insights in tropical diseases, such as lassa fever, yellow fever, and malaria. “This could be a win-win situation for your students and our (collective) institutions,” he added.

Ambassador Sulunteh also recommended that Harvard University Medical School be designated to serve as a center for a consortium of medical universities to be supported by the United States Government on the study and prevention of tropical diseases in Africa. He called on Harvard University Medical School to consider establishing technical cooperation with medical schools and universities in the Ebola affected countries to renew efforts aimed at manufacturing a vaccine for the Ebola Virus Disease.

Ambassador Sulunteh renewed calls for the United States to lead a global effort in establishing a regional center for disease control in Africa.

He lauded the international community, especially the United States and others, including China, Japan, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, World Health Organization, as well as international NGOs, such as the medical charity Doctors Without Border and Christian charity Samaritan’s Purse, for the outpouring of support that has led to progress in combating the pandemic.

Liberia’s Educational System Needs Urgent Help

Education remains a number one priority in the development of Liberia and the most difficult to show positive results in the short term, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf noted in her Annual Message (State of the Nation Address) delivered before a joint session of the National Legislature at the Capitol Building in Monrovia on January 26, 2015.

President Sirleaf quoted 2013 education statistics, which show an enrollment of 1.5 million students in schools across the country, an indication of success in increased enrollment. Girls account for 700,000 of the enrollment. She, however, said while there has been success in increased enrollment, “the quality of education has declined even further, evidenced by the failure in the entrance exam to the University of Liberia and in the WAEC exams which have been set at a sub-standard level for Liberia.” WAEC is the West African Examinations Council, and its members are English-speaking West African countries, including Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and the Gambia.

The President called on all national stakeholders and Liberia’s international partners to join in a review and update of the Comprehensive Education Reform Program, which is underway at the Ministry of Education. She assured that the government was taking appropriate measures, in consultations with stakeholders, including education leaders, parent-teacher associations, and community-based organizations, to inform them on the protocol for the prevention of Ebola, as the children returned to school February 16, 2015.
On January 23, 2015, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf officially turned over to the leadership of the old Ma Juah market the newly renovated premises that previously hosted the Liberia Tractor Company (LIBTRACO). Ma Juah marketers temporarily used a spot in Vai Town near the Gabriel Tucker Bridge that connects the central Monrovia district to Bushrod Island. According to an Executive Mansion release, the Liberian leader admitted that it took a long time to secure a new long-term site but was delighted that this is finally resolved. “For close to eight years we had problem finding premises that would be really suitable to accommodate the large number of people and to give them a place where they could do their marketing with some comfort, space and facilities including water, latrines,” she said, adding, “We had to make sure when we move the marketers into a better place,” President Sirleaf said.

She praised the collaboration of all those who worked with the Ministry of State to make the relocation a success, noting that was a result of all of them working together as a team with a very strong commitment that her promise has been fulfilled. “I’m so glad that we finally did it,” she said. President Sirleaf thanked the owners of the property for allowing them to rent the premises on a long term basis.

She promised to make the first buy as soon as the marketers have completed their relocation and begin to use the facilities.

In separate remarks earlier, the Monrovia city mayor, Mrs. Clara Doe Mvogo, president of the Liberia Marketing Association, Mrs. Lusu Sloan, and the supervisor of the Ma Juah Market, Dad Sumo Wonkulah thanked President Sirleaf for sponsoring the initiative and were very appreciative of the new premises. They said that it had been eight years in the making but were happy that it finally became a reality.

President Sirleaf met a delegation of the United States charity group, AmeriCares, headed by its chief executive officer and president, Mr. Michael Nyenhuis, on February 6, 2015. Other members of the delegation included Vice President, Global Partners, Mr. Garrett Ingoglia; County Director, AmeriCares, Mr. David Prettyman; and Gifts-in-Kind Coordinator, Ms. Masmina Sirleaf.

During the meeting at the Foreign Ministry, President Sirleaf commended AmeriCares for its work in Liberia mainly around the Ebola period. She named the provision of medical equipment and drugs, as well as the provision of services to crucial health facilities as key interventions made by the group during the Ebola crisis. She reminded the visiting AmeriCares delegation that the country was moving quickly from treatment to sustainable infection control health system and requested that the group’s intervention must be aligned with and reflected in the healthcare program being developed by the government through the Ministry of Health. “Sending help to countries in crisis is a very good thing, but it is sometimes important to be on the ground. This is exactly what AmeriCares has done in Liberia,” the Liberian leader stressed.

In remarks earlier, the chief executive officer of AmeriCares, Mr. Michael Nyenhuis, expressed gratefulness for being able to work with the Health Ministry during a critical time in the country’s history. (cont’d on page 7)
Diaspora Summit: Showcasing Liberia’s Human Resources and How to Rebrand Liberia

The Diaspora Affairs Office of the Embassy of Liberia hosted its First Annual Professionals Summit on Saturday, February 14, 2015 at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C.

The well-attended and impressive Professionals Summit, which featured mostly young accomplished professionals of diverse background, was aimed at discussing ways on how to begin rebranding Liberia as the country transitions from the Ebola crisis to recovery.

The Summit was a showcase of the abundance of Liberian talents, intended to encourage emerging professionals to see themselves as winners and motivate young Liberians to unleash their potentials.

In their respective presentations, the experts from various professions shared information about their activities, and proffered ideas and suggestions regarding actions most needed to move forward in the redevelopment and rebranding of Liberia.

Speakers at the event, moderated by Mr. James Butty, Managing Editor of the Voice of America’s Daybreak Africa program, included Dr. Kondeh Greaves, an OB-GYN Physician in Northern Virginia, who is a leading member of the joint initiative, Project Liberia Ebola that contributes to the Liberian Ebola emergency response through mobilization and provision of much needed personal protective equipment and Ebola awareness education materials to the health sectors in Liberia.

Others were Mr. Erickson Miller, a U.S. military Reserve Officer and Administrative Director and a principal administrative advisor to Senator Brian Schatz on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.; Ms. Korto Momolu, Fashion Designer who is making headways in mainstream America; Mr. Richeieu Lomax, a Harvard University Law School product who is an Attorney at the World Bank investigating corruption in WB-supported projects around the world; as well as Ms. Adenah Boyah, a Real Estate Entrepreneur who is owner of 14 residential and commercial properties and also recently became an owner of a IHOP restaurant in New Jersey. Ms. Boyah, who was 13 years old when she escaped Liberia’s civil war, is a member of the Advisory Council of the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank.

Also sharing their experiences were two young professionals from Liberia who are currently in Washington, D.C. among hundreds of young professionals from around the world serving as Atlas Corps Fellows. Lawrence Yealue and Luther Jeke shared their experiences on initiatives with which they are involved in Liberia to develop small and medium enterprises, efforts being made to provide communication and information technology services in Liberia to enhance productivity, and how the Atlas Corps Fellowship is changing their world to provide quality services when they return to Liberia.

A common call that was echoed by all speakers was the need for Liberians to unite and work together for the common good of the country, and that Liberians in position of influence should encourage, support and mentor young Liberians to aspire to become productive members of society.

Capturing the positive elevated mood of the occasion, which had the speakers and audience engaged for more than four hours, Liberia’s Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Jeremiah C. Sulunteh, said the successful rebranding of Liberia depends on Liberians sharing ideas regarding the way forward, as well as harnessing the abundance of the country’s human and material resources.

As a highlight of the impressive event, Ms. Korto Momolu, who earned a spot on the hit Bravo TV show, Project Runway, showcased her Spring Collection, to the sound of beautiful African beats and to the delight of the audience.

The Ward Fund, a nonprofit organization that is actively supporting educational programs in Liberia, partnered with the Embassy of Liberia in holding the Liberian Professionals Summit.
As the pandemic spread, Liberia’s health care system virtually collapsed, airlines, investors, and others fled the country, while Liberian citizens and residents faced stigmatization and were denied entry into many countries worldwide.

Liberia has been worst affected by the pandemic, which has taken the lives of 3,858 people in the country, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) report of February 10, 2015. The casualties in Liberia include 178 health care workers. The report also shows a total of 9,268 deaths in the mostly three worst Ebola-affected West African countries, including 2,032 deaths in Guinea, and 3,363 deaths in Sierra Leone, since the outbreak began December 2013 in Guinea.

In her Annual Message (State of the Nation address) on January 26, 2015, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf paid homage to the international community and partners, who, she said, “rallied and responded massively” to Liberia’s passionate global appeal for much needed humanitarian assistance to combat the pandemic.

Speaking of the numerous human, technical and material assistance of the global community, President Sirleaf said, “The United States took the lead followed closely by the People’s Republic of China, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Nigeria, Cuba, among others and joined by international development partners such as the European Union, World Bank, African Development Bank, small organizations and individuals.”

Also lauding Liberians for their resilience, President Sirleaf noted that Liberia’s success in combating the deadly pandemic is due to the hard work of Liberian health professionals, community volunteer, civil society organizations, religious institutions, as well as the Armed Forces of Liberia, among others.

Liberians are also immensely grateful to respected global medical aid agency, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), also known as Doctors Without Borders, and Christian charity group Samaritans Purse, for leading the charge in combating the deadly scourge. Liberians are grateful for the sacrifices of many foreign medical personnel and others, especially those who got infected or died from the disease, while trying to save lives in Liberia and the wider affected region.

Ebola has negatively impacted the Liberian economy and the Liberian people and slowed down the country’s post-war recovery process. Nevertheless, the country is bouncing back. Even though the disease was not eradicated on December 31, 2014 as was envisioned by the government, there has been a dramatic reduction in the number of Ebola patients receiving treatment in the country.

Because of the dramatic reduction in the number of cases, some of the Ebola treatment centers that were established to combat the disease have been closed. Schools across the country, which were closed last year because of the outbreak, reopened on February 16, 2015. In December 2014, Liberia held a successful nation-wide mid-term legislative election, while economic activities are on the rebound.

With the Ebola pandemic being brought under control, the Liberian people are getting back on course with the process of national reconstruction, with the help of the international community.

Since the end of the civil war 11 years ago, Liberia has reemerged from a failed state to being internationally recognized as a post-conflict success story because of the encouraging level of progress and reforms to enhance democratic governance.

Notable progress Liberia has made since the end of civil war includes the 2006 election of Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as the first democratically elected female president in the history of Africa; the waiver of US $4.9 billion debt under the Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) Initiative due to the aggressive reforms undertaken by the Sirleaf Administration; and the attraction of about US $17 billion in direct foreign investment in the mining, timber, rubber, agriculture and other economic sectors.

In 2012, oil was discovered in the country, and several American companies, including Chevron and Exxon Mobile partnering in the oil sector. Former BET owner, billionaire Bob Johnson, owns an impressive ocean-front resort near the Liberian capital Monrovia, on the route to the Roberts International Airport.

Follow the Liberian Embassy, Washington D.C. On Face Book. Like us and you will find many interesting articles, pictures and stories. You may also post your opinion on any topic for others to read.
Liberia Applauds U.S. and International Community. (cont'd from pg 1)

Speaking at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, GA last September, President Obama announced the deployment of 3,000 U.S. troops to Liberia to help combat the Ebola outbreak. The U.S. intervention included plans for the construction of 17 health facilities of 100 beds each to isolate and treat patients, as well as the setting up of a facility to train 500 health workers per week and airlift 50,000 home health care kits to Liberia.

President Obama authorized the U.S. to lead a massive global effort to combat the pandemic after President Sirleaf wrote him a letter September 12, 2014, appealing for urgent help in combating Liberia’s rapidly expanding Ebola crisis. The Liberian leader warned that without American assistance, the disease could send Liberia into the civil chaos that enveloped the country for more than two decades.

Given the dramatic reduction of the Ebola infection rates in Liberia, President Obama announced at a White House ceremony February 11 that military personnel participating in Operation United Assistance are scheduled to leave Liberia by April 30, 2015. According to the announcement, 100 Defense Department personnel will remain in the region as part of a continued presence.

During the ceremony, also attended by Liberia’s Ambassador to the U.S., H.E. Jeremiah C. Sulunteh, President Obama lauded U.S. troops and workers for their sacrifices in the fight against Ebola.

As Liberia makes sustainable progress in combating Ebola, other members of the international community and partners President Sirleaf has also thanked for responding massively to Liberia’s appeal include China, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Nigeria, Cuba, as well as international development partners, such as the European Union, WorldBank, African Development Bank, the UN system, smaller organizations and individuals.

According to the World Health Organization, almost 23,000 people have been infected with Ebola since its outbreak in Guinea in December 2013, and more than 9,000 people have died mostly in the three worst-affected countries - Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

PRESIDENT SIRLEAF MEETS VISITING AMERICARES DELEGATION (cont from pg 4)

He pointed out that just over a year ago, AmeriCares identified Liberia as an operational area because of the great potential of the country, the credible and effective leadership of President Sirleaf and the compelling needs of the Liberian people.

“He pointed out that just over a year ago, AmeriCares identified Liberia as an operational area because of the great potential of the country, the credible and effective leadership of President Sirleaf and the compelling needs of the Liberian people.

“In the next few months,” he said, “AmeriCares work will be focused mainly in Grand Bassa County where assistance will be targeted at upgrading the Government run hospital in Buchanan, support maternal child health and ensure protection and safety of healthcare workers.”

He told President Sirleaf further that the group is about to assess schools in Grand Bassa to make interventions in the water and sanitation situation as schools are about to re-open in Liberia. He also advised that ETUs constructed around the country remain intact until the Ebola crisis in Liberia is declared over by the relevant professional bodies.

“With many of the trained ETU workers now available with less work to be done, we intend to deploy them as mobile health workers to provide services to rural communities where the need for regular healthcare services may be important,” Mr. Nyenhuis pointed out.
Liberia’s first case of the Ebola virus was recorded in March 30, 2014 in Foya, Lofa County, in northern Liberia. In June, the virus had spread to the capital Monrovia, where a third of the country’s population resides.

In an effort to combat the disease, in late July, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf set up a National Task Force, which she chaired. The purpose of the task force was to support technical teams, comprising health workers, government officials, media, political leaders, security sector and concerned citizens and residents. Similar structures were established at the county or state level as well.

To compliment the efforts of the Government, Ambassador Jeremiah C. Sulunteh established a Special Ebola Response Team, chaired by him, to coordinate the Liberian Diaspora’s collective reaction, as well as other well-meaning institutions and individuals, so as to leverage Ebola relief activities. The following is a brief summary of the Embassy’s activities in the fight to kick Ebola out of Liberia:

(Cont’d on pg 9)
The Embassy joins the fight against Ebola:
Chronology of Events Regarding The Ebola Crisis (cont’d from pg 8)

In July 2014, The Embassy of Liberia established a partnership with Global Health Ministries, a U.S.-based humanitarian organization that has operated in Liberia for many years, in an effort to speedily expedite support intended for the fight against Ebola. Global Health Ministries has sent several shipments of medical supplies to Liberia since the Ebola outbreak.

August 6, 2014: In an effort to create more awareness about the state of affairs in Liberia at the height of the Ebola epidemic, the Embassy of Liberia organized a well-attended town-hall meeting, during which Vice President Boakai briefed Liberians in the Diaspora and friends of Liberia about the Ebola virus disease that was gradually becoming lethal in the country. He also updated them about interventions and actions by the Government and its partners to combat the spread of the disease. Vice President Boakai represented President Sirleaf as head of a high-level Liberian Government Delegation at the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit hosted by President Barack Obama on August 5-6.

August 12, 2014: The Embassy took delivery of and facilitated the transportation to Liberia of the first three doses of ZMapp serum for trial on three doctors infected with Ebola. The package containing the ZMapp was personally conveyed to Liberia by H.E. Foreign Minister Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, his return from the U.S. Africa Leaders Summit coincided with the sending of serum.

August 19, 2014: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that relief measures will be offered to the nationals of countries battling Ebola. The measure covers nationals of countries affected by Ebola who are currently in the U.S. (cont’d on pg 10)
September 17, 2014: An agreement for a US $105 million grant by the World Bank Group (WBG) to finance Ebola containment efforts underway in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone was signed at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington, D.C by officials representing the three countries. During the signing ceremony, Mr. Makhtar Diop, the World Bank’s Regional Vice President for Africa, underscored the commitment of the WBG to the international efforts to contain the Ebola epidemic that was spreading in West Africa. Under the WBG’s new Ebola Emergency Response project, US $52 million was earmarked for Liberia, which had the highest number of Ebola infection; while US $28 million was earmarked for Sierra Leone, and US $25 million for Guinea. During the ceremony, Liberia’s Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Jeremiah C. Sulunteh, the Ambassador of Sierra Leone to the United States, H.E. Buckari Stevens, and a representative from the Guinean Embassy in Washington, signed on behalf of their respective countries.

September 20, 2014: H.E. Foreign Minister Augustine Kpehe Ngfuan and Ambassador Sulunteh were on hand at the John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York when Direct Relief, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization based in the U.S., airlifted 100 tons of emergency medical aid for communities fighting Ebola in Liberia and Sierra Leone. The private charter 747 airlift contained 2.8 million surgical and exam gloves, 170,000 overall gowns, 120,000 masks, 40,000 liters pre-mixed oral rehydration and solution, and 9.8 million doses of essential medications, all valued at nearly U.S. $6 million.

September 26, 2014: US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced it will automatically extend Employment Authorization Documents (EADS) for Liberian nationals covered under the Deferred Enforcement Departure (DED). This automatic extension of EADs follows President Obama’s announcement of his decision to extend DED through September 2016, for qualified Liberians and those individuals without nationality who last habitually resided in Liberia. Ambassador Sulunteh was among a large number of Liberians and friends of Liberia at the Liberian National Immigration Conference on Capitol Hill hosted by US Congressman Donald Payne, Jr., on September 10. During the conference, several members of the US Congress pledged to advocate for immigration reform that will grant permanent residence status to several thousands of Liberian currently on DED in the United States.

Embassy Website: www.liberianembassyus.org
THE EMBASSY JOINS THE FIGHT AGAINST EBOLA:
Chronology of Events Regarding The Ebola Crisis (cont’d from pg 10)

September 26, 2014, the Embassy received a used ambulance donated by two brothers in Virginia, USA, to assist the government and people of Liberia in combating the deadly Ebola virus. Messrs Kenneth Nethken and Harry Nethken of Fisherville, VA, drove the ambulance to the Embassy of Liberia in Washington, D.C. and presented its keys to Ambassador Sulunteh, saying they had been following reports about the devastation being caused by Ebola and decided to contribute towards the fight against the pandemic.

September 29, 2014: Addressing the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York, Foreign Minister Augustinus Kpehe Ngafuan outlined Liberia’s huge economic challenge occasioned by the outbreak of the Ebola virus, while also offering the country’s hope in overcoming the virus.

October 2, 2014: Samaritan Purse International, a US-based non-denominational evangelical Christian organization, airlifted to Liberia nearly 100 tons of medical supply to buttress government’s efforts in the fight against the Ebola virus disease. The departure of the 747 cargo plane from Charlotte, NC was witnessed by Ambassador Sulunteh and one of the doctors that got infected with Ebola in Liberia, as well as Dr. Franklin Graham. Vice President Boakai was personally on hand at the Roberts International Airport in Monrovia to receive the donation.

October 16, 2014: GlobalMedic, a humanitarian aid organization based in Canada, loaded its second consignment of medical supplies for shipment to Liberia. The several containers of Ebola relief medical supplies were estimated at $635,000 Canadian dollars. The supplies were destined for S.D.A. Cooper Hospital in Monrovia. Ambassador Sulunteh attended the final loading of the shipment.
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q:** How do I apply for a new Liberian Passport?  
**A:** Apply online @ www.Liberiapassports.com and follow instructions; apply in person at the Embassy in Washington, D.C. or the Liberian Consulate in New York.  

**Q:** Why do I have to fly all the way to Washington, D.C. to complete my passport application process?  
**A:** Because the equipment to collect the required biometric data is available only at the Embassy in Washington, D.C. and the Consulate in New York.  

**Q:** What documents must accompany my application for a new passport?  
**A:** An old Liberian passport, a Liberian birth certificate, or a certificate of citizenship/naturalization.  

**Q:** Why is the Embassy of Liberia not renewing old Liberian passports?  
**A:** Because the Government of Liberia has officially changed its passport to the new ECOWAS BIOMETRIC passport. Old passports are no longer renewable.  

**Q:** How long does it take to receive the passport after application?  
**A:** 30 Business days after the interview.  

**Q:** How do I apply for a Visa to travel to Liberia?  
**A:** Go to the Embassy’s website at www.liberianembassyus.org.  

**Q:** What are the Requirements for Visa?  
**A:** When you access the Embassy’s website and click on Visa, you will find the requirements.  

**Q:** How long does it take for visa processing?  
**A:** Seven (7) business days.  

**Q:** Who is required to obtain Visa to travel to Liberia?  
**A:** Passport holders of all foreign countries that are not members of ECOWAS are required to obtain Visa to enter Liberia.  

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**The Embassy of the Republic of Liberia in the United States is located at 5201 16th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011. Open to serve the Public, Monday thru Friday, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

WEBSITE: www.Liberianembassyus.org; Phone: (202)723-0437 Fax: (202)723-0436

| January |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1                | New Year Day     |
| 11               | Armed Forces Day |
| 15               | Decoration Day   |
| 17               | JJ Roberts Birthday |
| March 2          | Fast and Prayer Day |
| May 14           | Good Friday      |
| July 26          | Independence Day |
| August 24        | Flag Day         |
| October 24       | United Nations Day |
| November 1st Thursday | Thanksgiving Day  |
| November 29      | President Tubman’s Birthday |
| December 25      | Christmas Day    |

**Note**  
In addition to these holidays, the Liberian Embassy and other Consulates in the U.S. follow the Federal Government closing schedule.