

Happy 169th Birthday, Liberia



THE LIBERIAN EMBASSY, U S A

Newsletter

Volume IV No. I

July - Sept 2016

'Dare to Venture Out,' President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Urges Young People



President Sirleaf, left, speaking at the book signing ceremony. Seated front row, right to left include Ambassador Jeremiah Sulunteh, author Riva Levinson, and former Malawian President Joyce Hilda Banda.

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia has urged individuals, especially young people, not to allow themselves to be held back from reaching their goals due to unfavorable conditions and circumstances. "Be what you want to be; stay the course and don't be distracted by challenges," she said. "Dare to venture out." **Cont'd on page 4**

First Lady Michelle Obama Visits Liberia



Monrovia, Liberia: President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on June 27, 2016 received the First Lady of the United States of America, Mrs. Michelle Robinson Obama at the Roberts International Airport. The US First Lady was accompanied by her two daughters, Malia and Sasha and her mother Marian Robinson **Cont'd on page 9**

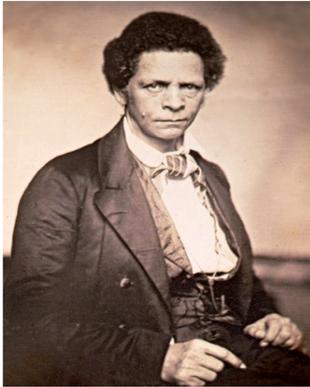
President Sirleaf Chairs ECOWAS



Dakar, Senegal – June 4, 2016: As a manifestation of Liberia's re-emergence as a leader in the global community, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has been elected on 'white ballot' by her colleagues at the 49th Ordinary Session of the Summit of the Authority of Heads of State **Cont'd on page 10**



Liberia at 169 : Africa's Oldest Republic



Joseph Jenkins Roberts
First President
1848—18/56
1872-1876

On July 26, 1847, 169 years ago, Liberia declared her independence, and became Africa's first republic.

Liberia's declaration of independence in 1847 was spearheaded by Joseph Jenkins Roberts, born in Norfolk, VA, U.S.A., who was then Governor of the Commonwealth of Liberia, and became the first president of the new country. Liberia, which derives her name from "liberty," meaning "land of the free," was founded in 1822 by former slaves and free-born Blacks from the United States, under the auspices of the American Colonization Society (ACS). The ACS was a philanthropic organization chartered to find a new home in Africa for freed men and women of color from the United States



Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
24th President
1st Female President
2006 to Present

.Among the founders of the ACS were many prominent early American leaders, including Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe, Daniel Webster, Francis Scott Key, Henry Clay, and Bushrod Washington, an associate justice of the Supreme Court and nephew of George Washington. Liberia's capital, Monrovia, is named after James Monroe, the fifth president of the U.S during whose administration the country was founded.

The first Liberian Constitution was written at Harvard Law School. The country's three branches of government, the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary are modeled after the system of government of the U.S., and its national flag of red, white and blue bears close resemblance to the American flag.

Ten of Liberia's past presidents, including Mr. Roberts, were American-born. It is in view of this historical linkage that there are places in Liberia named after states and cities in the U.S., such as Maryland, Virginia, Louisiana, New Georgia, Lexington, Greenville, among others.

With a population estimated to be more than 4.1 million, Liberia is endowed with abundant natural resources, and is home to 43 percent of the remaining tropical rain forest in West Africa, with unique plant and animal species, including the pygmy hippopotamus. The country is a potential tourism haven with 350 miles coastline along the Atlantic Ocean lined with white sandy beaches, coconut and palm trees, as well as lakes, waterfalls, mountain ranges, and other natural attractions.

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Liberia and Africa's first democratically elected female president, is the 24th president of the Republic of Liberia since independence.

Vice President Joseph N. Boakai Meets With Savannah State University Students



Monrovia, July 15, 2016- Vice President Joseph N. Boakai met with 12 students of Savannah State University from Atlanta GA, accompanied by two professors, currently in Liberia to participate in the *Study Abroad Program* at the University of Liberia from July 11 -18, this year. The trip is the outcome of the partnership established since 2014 between Savannah State University and the University of Liberia. Mrs. Cynthia Blandford, Honorable Consul of Liberia in Atlanta, Georgia and Dr. Emmet Dennis, President of the University of Liberia hosted the team in Liberia.



Amb. Marjon V. Kamara: Liberia's New Foreign Minister



Ambassador Marjon V. Kamara, appointed January 6, 2016 by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia, is a seasoned public servant with over 25 years of experience in Government, international relations, and humanitarian affairs.

From a humble beginning in 1974 as Research Officer, Bureau of African and Asian Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Madam Kamara rose through the ranks to become Assistant Minister and Special Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs until a change of government in Liberia in 1980. Thereafter, she joined the United Nations system in 1983 when she served as Associate Program Officer at the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) Branch Office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Madam Kamara further excelled to become Senior Administrative Officer, Regional Bureau of Africa, UNHCR Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland, and also Director, Division of Operational Support, UNHCR, Geneva.

From 2005-2009, Madam Kamara served as Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, UNHCR Headquarters, Geneva. In this position, she served as principal advisor to the High Commissioner for Refugees on UNHCR's work in Africa. She also contributed to the formulation of global policies affecting the strategic direction of the UNHCR. It was while shouldering this very important international responsibility that President Sirleaf was pleased to appoint her as Liberia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Ambassador-Designate to the Republic of Cuba in 2009, in which position she served until her recent appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Christine Ann Elder Commissioned U.S. Ambassador to Liberia



Amb. Elder poses with Liberian Embassy's Acting Chief of Mission, Hon. Jeff G. Dowana

The new Ambassador of the United States of America to Liberia, Her Excellency Christine Ann Elder, was commissioned on June 20, 2016 at an impressive and well-attended ceremony at the U.S. Department of State. Speaking at the ceremony, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, described Liberia as the United States' oldest traditional friend and one of America's closest allies in South Sahara Africa.

Secretary Thomas-Greenfield, who served as the United States' first female ambassador to Liberia, underscored the tremendous progress Liberia has made since the end of its devastating civil war, especially under the leadership of Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Liberia and Africa's first female democratically-elected president.

Amid warm applause, Secretary Thomas-Greenfield, reiterated U.S. commitment to support sustainable peace and progress in Liberia. She added that the U.S. will continue to be fully engaged with Liberia as the country prepares to hold presidential election in 2017, which would mark a historic peaceful transfer of power from one living president to another.

For her part, newly inducted Ambassador Elder indicated that Liberia and the United States share deep historical bonds. Ambassador Elders, who recently served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the United States Embassy in Mozambique, noted that she will deepen the relationship between the U.S. and Liberia.



Liberia's Police Inspector-General Massaquoi Applauds U.S. and Other International Partners for Support to LNP



LNP IG Clarence Massaquoi (L) with Secretary Alexander Arvizu and Hon Jeff Dowana

The Inspector General of the Liberia National Police (LNP), C. Clarence Massaquoi, has lauded the United States and other international partners for their strong support to the LNP and other security apparatus of Liberia. Inspector General Massaquoi made the commendation on June 14, 2016, when he met with Hon. Axelander A. Arvizu, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. Inspector-General Massaquoi said the Government and People of Liberia are grateful to the United States and other partners for their very strong support to Liberia's security sector reform, especially progress that have been made in the restructure of the Liberia National Police. He also made specific reference to the U.S. Government's continuous support to the LNP in the areas of training and mentoring. Inspector-General Massaquoi indicated that despite serious budgetary challenges, the Government of Liberia has made tremendous efforts in funding capacity building projects in many parts of the country, and LNP officers are being deployed in various parts of Liberia in the wake of the drawdown of the forces of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). He stated that the LNP has attained the maximum level of training for its officers, but that there were serious challenges regarding the availability of the necessary equipment and tools to enable the officers to be effective in the performance of their duties.

'Dare to Venture Out,' President Sirleaf Urges Young People cont'd from page 1

President Sirleaf was speaking in Washington Tuesday, May 31, 2016, when she served as special featured guest at the signing ceremony for a new book, "Choosing the Hero: My Improbable Journey And The Rise Of Africa's First Woman President. The new book is authored by Ms. K. Riva Levinson, President and CEO of KRL International, a Washington-based communications and government relations firm which champions Liberia's cause in the U.S. Ms. Levinson has a long-time relationship with the President and has played a commendable role in further deepening Liberia-U.S. relations during the tenure of President Sirleaf.

The Liberian leader was in the United States on the first leg of official visits to three nations, including Senegal and the State of Israel, from May 26 to June 10, 2016.

The Liberian Embassy Newsletter

Washington D. C., USA



Volume IV No. 1

Page 5

July - Sept 2016

Ambassador Jeremiah C. Sulunteh Commemorates Four Years of Service in Diplomacy

A brief Chronology of Ambassador Sulunteh's Tenure in the US, Mexico and Canada

Ambassador Jeremiah C. Sulunteh is a prominent Liberian politician, administrator and professor. His career in the areas of administration, teaching, and politics spans more than 30 years. Due to his hard work, dedication to duty and patriotism to his country, Ambassador Sulunteh has risen through the ranks from a humble beginning. Following her inauguration as Liberia and Africa's first democratically-elected President in 2006, Her Excellency Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was pleased to appoint Honorable Sulunteh as Minister of Transport from 2006 to 2008. He also served as Minister of Post and Telecommunications from 2008 to 2010, and as Minister of Labor from 2010 to 2012. Because of his wealth of experience and proven service, President Sirleaf was once again pleased to appoint His Excellency Jeremiah C. Sulunteh as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Liberia to the United States, Mexico and Canada in 2012. A brief summary of Ambassador Sulunteh's activities during the past four years of his diplomatic tenure follows.

- ◆ April 23, 2012: Ambassador Sulunteh arrived in Washington, D.C., and presented his Letters of Credence to President Barack Obama at a formal credentialing ceremony held in the Oval Office of the White House on May 2, 2012. President Obama expressed delight to welcome Ambassador Sulunteh and Family to the White House, and lauded President Sirleaf's excellent stewardship of Liberia. He assured Ambassador Sulunteh of his Government's continued support of Liberia's development objectives.
- ◆ May 31, 2012: The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved US \$144.5 million in zero interest financing and a US \$31.5 million grant for two projects under the West Africa Power Pool (WAPP) program to increase electricity supply and lower energy cost in the Ivory Coast, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea. In partnership with the African Development Bank (ADB), the European Investment Bank (EIB), and Kreditanstalt fuer Weideraufbau (KfW), and governments of the four West African countries, the first project will finance the infrastructure of the transmission interconnection between the Ivory Coast, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea of a length of approximately 1,349 km. **Cont'd on page 6**



Pres. Obama with Amb Sulunteh at the White House after presenting Letters of Credence



Amb. Sulunteh signs World Bank agreement on behalf of Liberia



Pres. Sirleaf and Amb. Sulunteh with other dignitaries at the Smithsonian National Museum of African Arts.

The Liberian Embassy Newsletter

Washington D. C., USA



Volume IV No. 1

Page 6

July - Sept 2016

Ambassador Jeremiah C. Sulunteh Commemorates Four Years of Service in Diplomacy

Cont'd from page 5

- ◆ June 6-12, 2012: President Sirleaf paid her first official visit to the United States during the tenure of Ambassador Sulunteh, during which the Liberian Leader delivered a keynote address at a conference hosted by US Agency for International Development (USAID); held a series of meetings, including a meeting with Vice President Joe Biden, and members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.
- ◆ June 14-15, 2012: Ambassador Sulunteh attended his first major meeting when the United States Government hosted the 11th Annual U.S.-Sub-Sahara Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum under the auspices of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)
- ◆ September 27, 2012: Ambassador Sulunteh served as keynote speaker at Alcorn State University in Mississippi, during which he extended greetings from President Sirleaf and expressed the need for mutually rewarding partnership between Alcorn State University and the Republic of Liberia to promote education and culture. He appealed for scholarships to enable Liberian students to drink from the fountain of knowledge at Alcorn. As a result, four Liberian students are currently studying at Alcorn State University.
- ◆ January 15, 2013: History was made during a ceremony at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C. when President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of the Republic of Liberia and then U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton signed a Statement of Intent launching a Partnership Dialogue that institutionalizes the relationship between Liberia and the United States. The U.S.-Liberia Partnership Dialogue is intended to promote diplomatic and economic cooperation between the two countries by providing a flexible, non-binding mechanism to ensure sustained, high-level, bilateral engagement on issues of mutual interest. The Partnership Dialogue currently focuses on the following three critical areas: Agriculture and Food Security, Energy and Power Infrastructure, and Human Development
- ◆ November 22, 2013: As part of effort to improve Liberia's early childhood educational system, a group of 17 early childhood educators from Liberia undertook a three-week study tour in the United States

Cont'd on page 7



During Amb. Sulunteh's tenure, President Sirleaf and Sec. Clinton signed the agreement to create a partnership dialogue.



Amb. Sulunteh in an interview with Bill O'Reilly, describes the impact of the Ebola crises in Liberia and implications for America and the world



President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Ambassador Jeremiah C. Sulunteh meet with Congressional Leaders on Capitol Hill



Ambassador Jeremiah C. Sulunteh Commemorates Four Years of Service in Diplomacy

Cont'd from page 6

- ◆ December 10, 2013: At its quarterly meeting, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Board of Directors reselected Liberia as eligible to continue development of its compact proposal. Criteria for eligibility relates to meeting certain thresholds in various areas, including girls education, access to justice, and the fight against corruption
- ◆ The year 2014 ushered in a time of very serious challenges and trials as Liberia faced off a deadly enemy: The Ebola Virus Disease, which tested our resolve as a nation and a people. 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 the Ebola epidemic, which started in the country in March. Through the partnership, Global Health Ministries sent several shipments of medical supplies to Liberia to combat the disease.
- ◆ 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 Joseph N. Boakai briefed Liberians in the Diaspora and friends of Liberia about the Ebola virus disease that had become lethal in the country. 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
- ◆ September 17, 2014: An agreement for a US \$105 million grant by the World Bank Group (WBG) to finance Ebola containment efforts in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone was signed at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington, D.C. by officials representing the three countries. Ambassador Sulunteh signed on behalf of Liberia, which received US \$52 million of the amount earmarked for the three countries. **Cont'd on page 8**

Amb Sulunteh presents a check to Vice Pres Boakai on behalf of the Embassy and the Diaspora



Then Finance and Development Minister Amara Konneh and MCC CEO Dana Hyde sign MCC Compact for Liberia



Amb. Sulunteh with Rev. Franklin Graham of the Samaritan's Purse at the airport to airlift Ebola supplies to Liberia

The Liberian Embassy Newsletter

Washington D. C., USA



Volume IV No. 1

Page 8

July - Sept 2016

Ambassador Jeremiah C. Sulunteh Commemorates Four Years of Service in Diplomacy

Cont'd from page 7

- ◆ October 2, 2014: Samaritan's 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 the Rev. Dr. Franklin Graham CEO of Samaritan's Purse. Vice President Boakai was personally on hand at the Roberts International Airport in Monrovia to receive the donation
- ◆ October 16, 2014: Global Medic, a humanitarian aid organization 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 the S.D.A. Cooper Hospital in Monrovia. Ambassador Sulunteh attended the final loading of the shipment.
- ◆ February 14, 2015: The Embassy of Liberia hosted a Diaspora Summit in Washington, D.C., showcasing Liberia's human resources and how to rebrand the country. The well-attended and impressive professional 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.
- ◆ March 26, 2016: In continuation of his effort to remain constructively engaged with the Liberian Diaspora in the United States, Ambassador Sulunteh attended the 2016 inaugural ball for newly elected officers of the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA) in Essington, PA.



Amb Sulunteh with Lt. Gov. Elizabeth Dowdeswell and Rahul Singh, head of GlobalMedic, Canada at dispatch venue for Ebola supplies



Amb Sulunteh marches with residents in Canada in support of the campaign against Ebola



Amb Sulunteh with leaders of the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA)

Native to Liberia: The Pygmy Hippo



The Liberian Embassy Newsletter

Washington D. C., USA



Volume IV No. 1

Page 9

July - Sept 2016

First Lady Michelle Obama Visits Liberia, Stresses the importance Girls Education cont'd from pg 1

Fact

Of the 775 million adults who are illiterate, two thirds of them are women (UNESCO)



Fact

Uneducated girls have almost no chance to escape the cycle of poverty for them, their families and their communities.

Mrs. Obama was in Liberia in furtherance of her legacy program, “Girls Leading Our World” that seeks to promote girls’ education.

In March 2015, President Obama and the First Lady launched “Let Girls Learn”, a U. S. Government initiative aimed at ensuring adolescent girls across the world to attain a quality education that empowers them to reach their full potential. The initiative brings together the U.S. Department of State, U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Peace Corps, the Millennium Challenge Corporation and other agencies to address the range of challenges – both in and out of the classroom that make it difficult for over 62 million girls to get the education they deserve

According to an Executive Mansion release, President Sirleaf held a closed door meeting with Mrs. Obama at the Roberts International Airport where she was formally welcome to Liberia by the Liberian leader. Mrs. Obama also briefed the Liberian leader about the purpose of her visit to Liberia before her departure for Kakata, Margibi County and later joined the US First Lady at the R. S. Caulfield School in Unification Town for an interaction with Adolescent girls who are faced with obstacles in school for over two hours. They shared their personal experiences in pursuit of an education with both President Sirleaf and Mrs. Obama who encouraged the girls and provided inspiration and motivation to the girls.

As new commitments to the *Let Girls Learn Program* in Liberia, USAID is dedicating up to \$27 million in funding to directly support a new program that focuses on increasing enrollment and safe access to education. These interventions will include: *New Accelerated Quality Education (AQE) Activity* aimed at training teachers, administrators and policymakers to prevent gender-based violence; Launching the *‘Let Girls Learn Challenge for Liberia*; Increasing Support for Out-of-School Girls and Youth; and Providing Support for the Education of Girls with Disabilities.

Mrs. Obama indicated that she was thrilled that new investments are being made towards adolescent girls’ education and deepening the partnership with the Government of Liberia. “These girls are so bright and so eager to learn, and these investments will help them build the knowledge and skills they need to provide for themselves and their families and contribute fully to their communities and country

Speaking in Kakata during an interactive session with participants of the *GLOW Program*, Mrs. Obama pointed out that her visit to Liberia is aimed at having an insight into work being done by Peace Corps Volunteers in the country and also to see how Liberian girls are progressing with their educational sojourn. “We need to change the idea that says girls are not good enough and this is why the *GLOW Program* is important. Girls are worthy of an education because they are going to be mothers and will be able to educate their own children”, she noted.

President Sirleaf was joined at the Roberts International Airport by key Liberian officials to include Foreign Minister Marjon Kamara, Gender, Children and Social Protection Minister Julia Duncan Cassell, Education Minister George K. Werner, Information Minister Lenn Eugene Nagbe, amongst others.



DC Fashion Show: Celebrating Liberian and African Clothing



In commemoration of the 169th Independence Anniversary of the Republic of Liberia, the Liberian Fashion Ambassador's (Pride of Liberia) runway show will be held on Sunday, July 31, 2016, beginning at 4:00 pm. The event will be held at Trinity Episcopal Church, 7005 Piney Branch, Washington, D.C. Liberia's Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Jeremiah C. Sulunteh, will be the Guest Speaker at the occasion, which will feature the latest design in casual and formal African wear. Tekay Designs and Excel Magazine International are co-producing the fashion show in partnership with the Liberia Embassy to promote Liberian and African design as part of the independence celebration. The event will feature African clothing and accessories, including Liberian traditional country cloth and tie dye apparel. The renowned "Queen of the Brides" collection representing women of significant social status from various countries will be featured on the runway. Tekay Designs will also showcase their Summer 2017 "Pride of Liberia" collection.

President Sirleaf Chairs ECOWAS

Cont'd from page 1

and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the Senegalese capital Dakar, where she immediately set out key priorities aimed at peace *consolidation, security architecture*, conclusion of negotiations and legal actions, the transformation of Vision 2020 and the improvement in financial stability.

According to an Executive Mansion release, President Sirleaf's election as Chairperson of the 15-nation regional body comes on the heels of multifaceted challenges facing ECOWAS ranging from terrorism, global economic meltdown, coupled with the recent Ebola outbreak.

In her acceptance speech, President Sirleaf described her selection as an indication of the progress and peace Liberia enjoys, which would not have been possible without the tremendous sacrifices and solidarity of our brothers and sisters of ECOWAS.

She commended her Senegalese counterpart, President Macky Sall, whose extraordinary leadership guided the work of our organization in the past year, paid tribute to Dr. Kadre Désiré Ouadraogo for the able manner in which he managed the affairs of the Community as President of the ECOWAS Commission, and congratulated his successor, His Excellency Marcel Alain de Souza and team as they assume their responsibilities.

The Liberian Chief Executive historicized the 48th Summit of the Authority held in Abuja, marking the 40th Anniversary of ECOWAS, thus noting the achievement during the last four decades across all sectors – including the harmonization of macroeconomic policies, trade integration, regional infrastructure, peace and security, regional institution development, democracy and rule of law.

President Sirleaf said as we move towards the achievement of such lofty goal, we are reminded that our Community faces both challenges and opportunities; such as the sharp reduction in commodity prices and the effect of epidemiological outbreaks have resulted in a decline in investment and growth. Beyond financial difficulties, she indicated that growth is affected by terrorism, drug and human trafficking, piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and the impact of climate change.



Liberia Awards: Promoting Excellence, Recognizing Accomplishment



Liberia is a country endowed with abundant human and natural resources. Liberia and its people have been a pace-setter in Africa since the country's independence in 1847 as Africa's oldest republic. Despite the important role the country has played in Africa and the world since its founding, its human and natural resources have yet to be fully utilized. Accordingly, the need to promote and recognize Liberian talents and leadership in various areas of human endeavors cannot be overemphasized.

This is why we applaud the Liberian Awards, Inc., a United States-based nonprofit organization established in 2010, which recognizes Liberians who have excelled in education and professionally in their areas of endeavors, while it also sponsors and mentors minority college students in the U.S. Even though 85 percent of the students honored are of Liberian descent, the awards has now extended to include students from other countries and races.

On May 2, 2016, The Chair of the Liberian Awards, Inc., Ms. Samantha Jallah, accompanied by Awards Board Member Patricia Minikon, paid a courtesy call on Ambassador Jeremiah Sulunteh at the Liberian Embassy in Washington, to acquaint the Ambassador and staff with the activities of the Liberian Awards. Ambassador Sulunteh lauded the Liberian Awards for promoting excellence and honor. Ambassador Sulunteh assured the Liberian Awards delegation of the Embassy's commitment to work with the organization in promoting the best of Liberia.

Meanwhile, the Liberian Awards will hold its annual awards event on Friday, August 26, 2016 in Wilmington, DE. The 2016 Honorees are: Mrs. Marlene Cooper Vasilic, Vice President for Outreach and Special Events at American Progress; Dr. Doughbeh Chris Nyan, Director of the Secretariat of the Diaspora Task Force on the Ebola Crisis; and Dr. Marlon Brewer, Chief Physician of the Medical Primary Care Clinic and Associate Director of the Ambulatory Care at Elmhurst Hospital, NY. For further information, please contact: www.LiberianAwards.org.



You've Got Questions???

We've Got Answers

Q. What is the address and telephone Number of the Embassy???

A. The address of the Liberian Embassy in Washington D.C is 5201 16th Street N.W , Washington D.C., 20011. (202)723-0437

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 do I apply for a Visa to travel to Liberia?

A. Go to the Embassy's website at www.liberianembassyus.org. click on the consulate tab. On the bottom of the page you will find the visa application with full instructions. Download it from there

Q. What are the Requirements for Visa?

A. When you access the Embassy's website and download a visa application, you will find all requirements Attached.

Q. How long does it take for visa processing?

A. (10) business days.

Q. What must I do if I did not submit my application form with the proper prepaid trackable return envelope ?

A. mail a fully addressed trackable return envelope to the embassy. Then call the Embassy to look for your return envelope in the mail. If you will be traveling soon, then arrange an express pick up by one of the mail carriers: FEDEX, USPS, DHL, or UPS. **You must call the embassy to verify that your passport is ready before finalizing your pickup arrangement**

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*

Official Holidays of the United States and the Republic of Liberia—2016

Friday, Jan. 1, 2016	New Year's Day
Monday, Jan. 18, 2016	Martin Luther King Jr.
Thursday, Feb. 11, 2016	Armed Forces Day (Liberia)
Wednesday, Mar. 9, 2016	Decoration Day (Liberia)
Tuesday, March 15, 2016	J.J. Roberts' birthday (Liberia)
Friday, April 8, 2016	Fast & Prayer Day (Liberia)
Saturday, May 14, 2016	Unification Day (Liberia)
Monday, May 30, 2016	Memorial Day
Monday, July 4, 2016	U.S. Independence Day

Tuesday, July 26, 2016	Independence Day (Liberia)
Wed. August 24, 2016	Flag Day (Liberia)
Monday, Sept 5, 2016	Labor Day
Monday, Oct. 10, 2016	Columbus Day
Thursday, November 3, 2016	Thanksgiving Day (Liberia)
Friday, Nov. 11, 2016	Veterans Day
Thursday, Nov. 24, 2016	Thanksgiving Day
Tuesday, November 29, 2016	W.V.S. Tubman Birthday (Liberia)
Monday, Dec. 26, 2016	Christmas Day

President Sirleaf Meets With Traditional Leaders



Editorial Staff

Gabriel I.H. Williams Minister Counselor for Press and Public Affairs, Editor ; Gabriel.Williams@liberianembassyus.org
 Website: WWW.Liberianembassyus.org

Graphics/tech, co-Editor: Edmund Kai Neblett Sr; Doliakhe Quoimie, First Secretary for Finance Tel: (202)723-0437 Fax: (202)723-0436