

Liberia Independence Day

Consolidating the progress of transformation

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CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF LIBERIA

The Republic of Liberia celebrates her 169th Anniversary of Independence with pride; despite many challenges and setbacks we refused to give in, fulfilling our duties in bringing Liberia to be among the comity of nations.

Since the inception of Her Excellency President Ellen Johnson



to deliver. Liberia is not what it used to be; there has been remarkable and visible progress to

Sirleaf's administration in 2006, Liberia has gained recognition throughout the world due to the trust in the president and her ability

date. Liberia suffered 17 years of civil crisis that ruined every fabric of existence, left infrastructure depleted, saw about 250,000 lives lost and saw more than 1 million diaspora and displaced people. Liberians nevertheless fought by engaging the international community, including Japan, which helped to bring stability to Liberia.

As Liberia celebrates her Independence, we look back on the achievements we have accomplished and the challenges we still have. As the president saw the importance of fulfilling the government's commitment to bring Liberia out of poverty to prosperity, a development strategy, the Agenda for Transformation (AfT), was created. The Lift Liberia Poverty Reduction Strategy, spanning 2008-2011, placed Liberia on a path of recovery. Under this strategy, we have achieved tangible gains in the areas of peace, national security, stability, infrastructure development and capacity building among others. The onus is on all Liberians at home and abroad to consolidate these gains, extend the impact to ordinary citizens in our towns and villages and guide the country on the path of economic transformation and inclusive growth. The AfT prioritizes the expectations and inspirations of our people and throughout this agenda, we focus on creating more jobs, building infrastructure, generating energy and improving the quality of life by spreading the benefits of growth to our citizens. Liberians appreciated the bottom-to-top approach of national development planning that emphasized rebuilding Liberia on the foundation of equality and respect for individual rights and dignity. Our

aspirations are for a reconciled society, in which each Liberian can access quality education, basic health care and critical infrastructure, all of which will help Liberia achieve a higher standard of living. We cannot achieve what we want, even within the next five years; rather, we are taking the first steps toward achieving the goals set out in Liberia Rising 2030, Liberia's long-term vision of socioeconomic and political transformation and

development. The agenda set out specific goals and objectives that must be achieved in the next five years to move toward a more prosperous and inclusive society. The AfT follows the principles of the Paris Declaration, the Accra Agenda for Action and the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States.

We want to take this time once more to thank our international partners, especially Japan, for their numerous contributions toward Liberia's recovery process. These contributions include non-project grant aid in petroleum,

Ebola assistance and the Somalia Drive Road reconstruction project.

We want to also thank the Japanese people for their numerous contributions to Liberia when we experienced the Ebola epidemic that claimed thousands of lives. We remain

grateful.

We would like to again remind Japanese investors that Liberia is open for business and has so much to offer.

God bless Liberia and its people as we celebrate the 169th Anniversary of our Independence.




Liberia's Chimpanzee Island EMBASSY OF LIBERIA



The palm tree, a part of the Liberian coat of arms, is the nation's most versatile source of food and represents prosperity. EMBASSY OF LIBERIA

Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Liberia
on the 169th Anniversary
of Their Independence

 **Mitsubishi Corporation**