

THE LIBERIAN EMBASSY, U S A



Newsletter

Volume II No. I

March 2014

OBSERVING ONE YEAR OF THE US- LIBERIA PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUE



On January 15, 2013, at a ceremony held at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and then Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, **(Cont'd on page 2)**

Pres. Sirleaf Commissions China Union's First Shipment of Iron Ore

On February 12, 2014, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf commissioned the first shipment of about 50,000 tons of iron ore by China Union, from its newly constructed pier at the Freeport of Monrovia. China Union is one of the largest investments in post-conflict Liberia. In 2009, China Union, a subsidiary of



The GMT Phoenix being loaded with China Union's first shipment of 50,000 metric tons

WASCO CAD (Hong Kong), signed a 25-year Mineral Development Agreement (MDA) with the Government of Liberia and committed to invest US\$2.6 billion to renovate and revitalize the former Bong Mining Company. With the completion of Phase One of their operations in July 2013, full-scale mining

began with the setting up of camps, hydraulic and conveyor belt machines, **(Cont'd on page 10)**

Liberia Makes Giant Leap towards Restoration of Electricity



President Sirleaf with Lands, Mines and Energy Minister, Patrick Sendolo, view plan for new Hydro Electric Plant being built in Mt. Coffee, Montserrado County

Mindful that electricity is the engine that drives a modern economy and is critical for improvement in the living conditions of people, the government, with strong support from some of Liberia's development partners, is working aggressively to rehabilitate and upgrade the Mount Coffee Hydro Plant, which is scheduled to come on line in December 2015, at a cost estimated at US **(Cont'd on page 9)**

In This Issue

- • **Liberian Soldiers Deployed in Mali ...9**
- • **Profile of the Liberian Honorary Consulate in Georgia ...5**
- • **Ambassador Sulunteh Visits With the Mayor of DC ...3**
- **Tubman University Library Project6**
- **Liberian Early Child Educators in U S ...4**
- **Mendala, a Global Icon 11**
- **Embassy Honors Deserving Citizens ...8**

The Liberian Embassy Newsletter

Washington D. C., USA



Volume II No. I

Page 2

March 2014

Message From the Ambassador



Ambassador Jeremiah C Sulunteh

Fellow Liberians and Friends of Liberia, on behalf of Her Excellency Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, the Government and People of Liberia, and the Embassy in Washington, D.C., I wish you all a peaceful and prosperous New Year. As we begin the year 2014, we first give thanks to Almighty God for His Mercy and Grace that enabled Liberians to celebrate 10 years of uninterrupted peace in our beloved country. Following decades of civil upheaval, Liberia embarked upon a course of peace in 2003. And thanks to very strong international support, our country has re-emerged on the international scene as a post-conflict success. With its nascent multi-party democracy thriving, Liberians are enjoying an unprecedented level of freedom across our country.

Liberia, under the Government of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, has continued on a course of progress in all aspects of national endeavors. From infrastructural development, such as rehabilitation and construction of roads, medical and educational facilities, provision of electricity and pipe-borne water, to the institution of policies and programs in order to strengthen state institutions, there has been sustainable progress. The Embassy of Liberia near Washington notes with satisfaction the elevated levels of cooperation attained in U.S.-Liberia relations over the last seven years of the Administration of President Sirleaf, including U.S. support for the cancellation of Liberia's US \$4.9 billion under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative.

On January 15, 2013, President Sirleaf and then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton launched a high-level U.S.-Liberia Partnership Dialogue, which reaffirmed United States strong commitment to supporting Liberia in the areas of Agriculture and Food Security, Energy and Power Infrastructure, and Human Development. The Partnership Dialogue was inaugurated on May 7, 2013 to concretize and further institutionalize the bilateral relations through the signing of a Joint Statement.

On March 18, 2013, President Barak Obama extended the status of Liberians on the Deferred Enforcement Departure (DED) in the United States for another 18 months. Our effort should now be directed towards more engagement with the United that those on the DED will be given the status of Permanent Residency. The Government of Liberia, in recognition of the importance of Liberians in the Diaspora, is taking measures that would harmonize the Constitution and laws of Liberia to legalize dual citizenship. We wish to assure that the Embassy will continue to be actively engaged with the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA) and all well-meaning Liberian organizations in the United States.

THE US- LIBERIA PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUE (cont'd from page 1

made history as they signed a Statement of Intent launching a Partnership Dialogue that institutionalizes the long-standing bilateral relationship between Liberia and the United States of America.

Following that historic ceremony, the inaugural session of the U.S.-Liberia Partnership Dialogue was also held in Washington, D.C. on May 7, 2013, with the signing of a Joint Statement, following a day-long deliberation involving senior government officials of both countries. 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. It will allow the two countries to look at their relationship strategically, with a view towards the long term, and to focus on those areas that encourage broad-based economic growth, including agriculture and food security, energy and power infrastructure, and human development. During the State Department ceremony launching the Partnership Dialogue, President Sirleaf underscored the significance of this institutional framework to concretize the relationship between both countries. She said: "The launching today of the U.S.-Liberia Partnership Dialogue is an historic achievement; one that will cement the strategic cooperation between our two countries for generations to come, regardless of the occupants of the White House or the Executive Mansion."

President Sirleaf said that the establishment of the U.S.-Liberia Partnership Dialogue was the fulfillment of a wish for the institutionalization of the long-standing bilateral relationship between Liberia and the United States. "In remarks at the launching ceremony, Secretary Clinton noted with satisfaction that the partnership between the U.S. and Liberia was strengthened (cont'd on page 7)

The Liberian Embassy Newsletter

Washington D. C., USA



Volume II No. I

Page 3

March 2014

Ambassador Sulunteh Pays Courtesy Call on D.C. Mayor Gray



Amb. Sulunteh presented Mayor Vincent a Liberian costume, while the Mayor gifted him a D. C. lapel pin

The Ambassador of the Republic of Liberia to the United States, H.E. Jeremiah C. Sulunteh, paid a courtesy call on the Mayor of Washington, D.C., Gray Vincent, on Friday, August 16, 2013. During the visit, which included a brief tour of some historic parts of Washington, D.C. City Hall, Ambassador Sulunteh and Mayor Gray discussed a wide range of issues, including U.S.-Liberia relations, Liberia's investment potentials, and particularly, how the District of Columbia could engage in mutually beneficial partnerships with Liberia in the public and private sectors.

Ambassador Sulunteh said his visit with the Mayor was intended to establish a personal relationship between the Embassy of Liberia and the city government of Washington, D.C., through which both sides can partner in programs and projects that are mutually beneficial. The Ambassador underscored the special historical ties between Liberia

and the United States, and applauded the U.S. for playing a critical role in Liberia's rebuilding process. He said that providing quality education and adequate training that will equip young people with skills necessary to become productive citizens, is a major challenge facing the Liberian government. Welcoming Ambassador Sulunteh, Mayor Gray emphasized the importance of education, especially early childhood education, as a building block to ensure a sustainable future of a community or society.

Mayor Gray said that the government of the District of Columbia has been focused on how to provide accessible and quality early childhood education within its jurisdiction. He added that his office would be prepared to engage the Embassy of Liberia relative to how Liberia could benefit from the experiences of D.C.'s educational programs.

Liberia Reselected for MCC Compact, Engages Key Stakeholders in Washington



LIBERIA
Schoolgirls in Liberia hold up their new book bags filled with school supplies. The distribution is part of MCC's \$15 million Threshold Program with Liberia which includes support to land rights, increasing girls' primary education enrollment and retention, and improving the country's trade policies.

On December 10, 2013, the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) reselected five African countries, including Liberia, as eligible to continue development of their respective compact proposals. The other countries reselected are Ghana, Niger, Morocco, and Tanzania.

The Government of Liberia, in partnership with the U.S. Government's Millennium Challenge Corporation, has been developing a compact aimed at reducing poverty through economic growth.

The Government recently completed an analysis that concluded that the lack of access to affordable and reliable electricity, and also insufficient and poor quality road network, are the country's top constraints to private investment and growth.

To consult with stakeholders in the United States, representatives from the Government of Liberia Compact Development team met with members of the Liberian Diaspora community in November 2013 to share findings and solicit feedback, comments and recommendations. The event brought together members of the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas and others who have an important stake in ensuring sustainable development and investment in Liberia. This consultation was only one of a series of consultations the team conducted during their visit, (cont'd on page 10)

The Liberian Embassy Newsletter

Washington D. C., USA



Volume II No. I

Page 4

March 2014

Liberian Early Childhood Educators Complete Study Tour in U.S.A.

In Photo below: Early Childhood Educators on a study tour in the U S pose with Ambassador Sulunteh at the symposium in Washington, D.C.



As part of effort to improve Liberia's early childhood educational system, a group of 17 early childhood educators from Liberia participated in a three-week study tour in the United States in November 2013.

The Early Childhood Study Tour was focused on providing experiences aimed at developing Liberia's early childhood educational system. The study tour was also intended to deepen the knowledge and skills of the selected early childhood educators and to further their development with more than two years of in-country early childhood development training.

Sponsored by the Open Society Foundations/Open Society Initiative for West Africa in partnership with the Ministry of Education, other partners of the study tour are the Early Childhood Leadership Institute at the University of the District of Columbia in Washington, D.C., Bank Street College in New York, and the Friends of Liberia - a philanthropic organization of Americans devoted to the peace and development of Liberia. One of the highlights of the study tour was a symposium held on November 18th at the Early Childhood Leadership Institute at the University of the District of Columbia, sponsored by the Embassy of Liberia in the United States, in collaboration with the Open Society Foundations and the other partners already mentioned. The symposium, attended by a large number of American educators and others, was held under the theme, "Creating World Class Early Childhood Educators for Liberia: The Vision, The Challenges, The Opportunities for Partnerships and Collaboration." During the symposium, as was the case during the course of the study tour, the Liberian educators made presentations focused on the state of Liberia's early childhood educational system, and engaged in discussions and information sharing with their American counterparts of early childhood teachers and administrators. The study tour took the Liberian educators to several colleges with early childhood education training programs, and they also visited classrooms and interacted with their American counterparts and students.

Speaking at the symposium in Washington, D.C., Liberia's Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Jeremiah C. Sulunteh hoped that the study tour by the Liberian educators was informative and educational to help break barriers that would advance the cause of early childhood education in Liberia.

A former classroom teacher, Ambassador Sulunteh indicated that as Liberia continues on a course of reconstruction and development following years of devastating civil crises, the Liberian Government has recognized human development as one of its priority areas in the transformation of the country.

Ambassador Sulunteh thanked the Open Society Foundations, the Early Childhood Leadership Institute of the University of the District of Columbia, Bank Street College, and Friends of Liberia for the support to improve education in Liberia, particularly early childhood educational system. The Embassy also held a working dinner on November 19th at the residence of the Ambassador, during which an extensive discussion was held on Liberia's educational needs and ways in which United States organizations and entities can contribute. **(Cont'd on page 5)**

The Liberian Embassy Newsletter

Washington D. C., USA



Volume II No. I

Page 5

March 2014

Profile of the Liberian Honorary Consulate in Georgia, USA



Front l-r, Georgia State Senator Donzella James presents proclamation to Liberia's Vice Pres. Joseph N. Boakai while back, left, Representative Randall Manghan and Honorary Consul General Blandford look on.

As a reflection of the dawn of a new day in Liberia, following the end of years of civil upheaval, the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Liberia in Atlanta, GA, was established in 2011. The Consulate Office was established by Madam Cynthia Lynn Blandford, who was commissioned August 31, 2009 as Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Liberia in the State of Georgia. Hon. Blandford is Liberia's first African American female Honorary Consul General.

Since its establishment, the Consulate Office has been extremely focused on enhancing economic, commercial, educational, scientific, cultural, sports, tourism and other efforts, as well as contributing to the strengthening of diplomatic ties between the United States and Liberia.

The Consulate has also been strategic in attracting investments and foreign capital into the Liberian economy valued at approximately US \$100 million. Over the past few years, the Consulate Office, which is under the auspices of the Embassy of Liberia in the United States, has strived to provide excellent customer service in the issuing of travel visas along with providing consultations and resources

relevant to immigration and legal matters, supporting the local Liberian community on special projects and initiatives, and promoting the interests of Liberia. There have been several areas of accomplishment since the Honorary Consulate was established. For example, in June 2009, Hon. Blandford launched the University Consortium for Liberia (UCL) in collaboration with the Embassy of Liberia in Washington, D.C. The UCL provides a framework for colleges, universities, and other educationally oriented organizations with current or future projects in Liberia to "Lift Liberia by coordinating diverse academic efforts for increased impact." In October 2012, Hon. Blandford co-hosted the Republic of Liberia's first Education and Business Conference in collaboration with Clark Atlanta University and the Association of Liberian Universities (ALU), where more than 300 students, faculty, staff and community participated at the Monrovia City Hall in Monrovia, Liberia.

Consul General Blandford provided leadership on the historic signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Georgia Ports Authority and the National Port Authority of Liberia, where a ceremony was held in Savannah, Georgia on August 4, 2010, and reauthorized June 29, 2012. Liberia is the State of Georgia's 100th trade partner, and under Hon. Blandford's leadership, she anticipates both exports and imports to increase over the next few years. Consul General Blandford also played a pivotal role in the discussions with Delta Air Lines concerning direct flights to Liberia, which began in September 4, 2010. She participated in Delta's Inaugural Flight to Liberia along with billionaire Robert Johnson and others. (cont'd on Page 11)

[Liberian Early Childhood Educators Complete Study Tour in U.S.A.\(cont'd from page 4](#)

The delegation of early childhood educators from Liberia was headed by Honorable Felicia Sackie Doe-Sumah, Assistant Minister of Education, Early Childhood Bureau. Others on the delegation were Dr. Yar D. Gorway-Gono, President of Nimba County Community College, and Professor Florence B. Koroma, Dean of the School of Education, Stella Maris Polythenic in Monrovia. The Open Society Foundations was represented by Ms. Massa S.S. Crayton.

The Liberian Embassy Newsletter

Washington D. C., USA



Volume II No. I

Page 6

March 2014

Liberian Diaspora Group Spearheads Tubman University Library Project



On Friday November 8, 2013, architecture students from three Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) in the United States gathered at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland for the W.V.S. Tubman University E-brary and Learning Center Design Challenge.

The W.V.S. Tubman E-brary, being designed as a state of the art and futuristic project, will be a regular library with electronic books, which will enable students, faculty and researchers to have access to books and other academic materials globally through the Internet. There are two unique aspects about the project. The first involves senior students from the schools of architecture at Howard University in Washington, D.C., Morgan State University, and Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama.

The students are engaged in a design challenge with each proposing an innovative design for the E-brary and Learning Center. The winners, one team from each of the three universities, will come together and form teams that will propose a final design.

The teams will travel to Maryland County in Liberia in early 2014 to view the site designated by the University for construction of the E-brary. The total cost of the project will be determined after completion of the final design.

The design process involving the three higher institutions of learning is named the Harriett Tubman Centennial Architectural Design Challenge, in honor of the legacy of Harriet Tubman, an American born in the State of Maryland, who led the Underground Railroad movement, liberated herself and other enslaved African American moving north to freedom. Liberian-American and American professional architects reviewed the proposals and selected the work of the three winning teams.

The second unique aspect of the project is that it is being sponsored and promoted by Marylanders for Progress (MFP), a non-profit organization established in the State of Maryland by Marylanders in the USA to bring economic development to Maryland County, Liberia.

MFP is working with the first president of the William V.S. Tubman University, Dr. Elizabeth Davis-Russell, to develop Tubman University as a center of excellence for education in Liberia. With the William V.S. Tubman Foundation Board, MFP is assisting Tubman University in addressing its need to expand its library resources.

The Harriet Tubman Centennial Architectural Design Challenge program was attended by Dr. David Wilson, President of Morgan State University; Hon. Jeff Dowana, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Liberian Embassy; and Hon. John McDonough, Secretary of State for the State of Maryland. Secretary McDonough presented the Governor's Citation to the W.V.S. Tubman Foundation for the Harriet Tubman Centennial Architectural Design Challenge.

Also speaking at the program, Honorable Dowana described education as the bedrock of society. He lauded the institutions and individuals involved in the effort to establish the E-brary at Tubman University, noting that the government and people of Liberia are grateful for this futuristic project that will help to better prepare students.

Commenting on MFP's achievements, Mrs. Roberta Brown Cooper, president of MFP stated: "This is just another effort by the membership of MFP and Marylanders to give back to our County and Country some of the blessings God has provided for us here in the United States of America."



In the audience of the design competition are Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Cooper, above, while below, an engineering student makes a presentation of the library design

The Liberian Embassy Newsletter

Washington D. C., USA



Volume II No. I

Page 7

March 2014

Pres Sirleaf Celebrates 75th Birth Anniversary



On Tuesday, October 29, 2013, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf celebrated her 75th birthday. The President's Diamond Jubilee celebration began with a reception Monday evening hosted by the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and its local chapter, Eta Beta Omega Chapter, at the new Level 1 Restaurant located on Tubman Boulevard, in Sinkor, Monrovia. A major highlight of the celebration was the Diamond Jubilee Ground breaking ceremony for the Omega Market Project, a state-of-the-art market being constructed in Paynesville outside Monrovia to house an estimated 3,000 market women. Photo shows President being presented a bouquet of flowers upon arrival at the restaurant.

U S-Liberia Partnership Dialogue (cont'd from pg 2)

under the leadership of President Sirleaf. Continued, Secretary Clinton: "Today, we are taking another important step to deepen the partnership between our nations and to support Liberia as it continues down the path of democratic and economic reform. The Partnership Dialogue we are about to sign will expand the cooperation between our countries and ensure high-level engagements for years to come." Secretary Clinton further noted: "This agreement establishes working groups in three key areas; first, agriculture and food security. Helping Liberia's farmers use their land more effectively and get their crops to market more efficiently will be critical to improving the health and prosperity of Liberians under the Feed the Future Initiative; look for new opportunities to attract private investment in the agriculture sector; and recommend policies to promote food security and better nutrition."

In the second area, energy and power infrastructure, Secretary Clinton said, "we know that access to affordable, reliable energy is essential to creating jobs and sparking growth that helps to build a strong economy. So we will take stock of all outstanding needs for the generation, transmission and distribution of energy; promoting a regulatory environment that's friendly to new investments in energy; and look for ways to accelerate development of well-governed and inclusive energy sector."

Regarding the third area, the U.S. Secretary of State said that the Partnership will look at human development with a real emphasis on creating more economic opportunities for the people of Liberia, to expand access to education and employment so that many more Liberians have a chance to not only better themselves and their families, but make a contribution to their nation.

At the May 2013 inaugural session of the Partnership Dialogue, which was held at the United States Institute of Peace in Washington, Liberia and the U.S. signed a Joint Statement at the end of the session. The Foreign Minister of Liberia, Augustine Kpehe Ngefuan, signed on behalf of Liberia, while Ambassador Wendy R. Sherman, U.S. Department of State Under-Secretary for Political Affairs, signed on behalf of the Government of the United States. The session focused on two of the three Working Groups established under the Partnership Dialogue: Agriculture and Food Security, and Energy and Power Infrastructure.

The next session of the Partnership Dialogue, scheduled to be held in Monrovia, will focus on the third Working Group, Human Development.



Honorees of July 26, 2013



Hon. C. Leona Chesson

Hon. Isaac S Zawolo

Hon. Momolu V. S. Sirleaf

Dr. Leroy Boikai

As part of activities commemorating the 166th Independence Anniversary of the Republic of Liberia on July 26, 2013, the Embassy of Liberia in the United States was pleased to honor 11 personalities for their sacrificial contributions to the welfare of their country. They are as follows: Bishop Bennie D. Warner, former Vice President of Liberia; Ambassador Christopher Minikon, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs; Dr. Leroy Z. Boakai, community leader and philanthropist; Hon. Makeda Kanga-Gurley, former diplomat; Hon. Winifred Massaquoi, educator; Hon. J. Urias Nelson, former diplomat; Hon. Momolu V.S. Sirleaf, former Minister of Foreign Affairs; Hon. Catherine Leona Tucker-Chesson, former lawyer and university professor; Pro. Isaac Zawolo, community leader and philanthropist; and Ms. Catherine Nmah, Second Secretary/Vice Consul at the Embassy of Liberia. Also to receive special recognition was Mother Parthena Laura Graham Askie, dedicated public servant and centenarian, who was awarded and decorated by directive of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf the grade of DAME COMMANDER in the Most Venerable Order of the Knighthood of the Pioneers of the Republic of Liberia. Ambassador Jeremiah C. Sulunteh is seen in the photos presenting certificates to the honorees. Go to www.liberianembassyus.org for details.



Hon. Christopher T Minikon

Hon. Urias J. Nelson Sr

2nd Sec. C. Nmah

Former V. P. Bennie Warner



Mrs. Parthena Laura Graham-Askie

Mrs. Makeda Kanga Gurley

Hon. Winifred J Massaquoi

The Liberian Embassy Newsletter

Washington D. C., USA



Volume II No. I

Page 9

March 2014

Liberian Soldiers on Peacekeeping Mission



As another example of the encouraging progress Liberia continues to make since the end of its civil war in 2003, a contingent of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) has been deployed in the West African nation of Mali since June 2013 as part of the international peacekeeping force in that country.

The Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces of Liberia, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who was on hand to bid the soldiers farewell upon their departure for Mali last year, said: "We feel a deep sense of pride, as we gaze upon your young faces, eager to get going and get the job done. This is a proud day for all of us, as Liberians, and, truly, you are the pride of our nation." President Sirleaf said that for over a decade Liberia has been the beneficiary of support from its sub-regional neighbors and international partners, who came to the country to help restore peace and reconstruct a shattered nation. As such, she added, "It's time for Liberia to give back, in whatever small way that we can," and that the AFL Infantry Platoon is "the chosen one" to represent the country as Liberia contributes to ensuring the restoration of peace and return to democratic rule in Mali. The President expressed gratitude to bilateral partners and organizations that helped to reorganize and shape the AFL into a professional outfit. She named the United States, United Nations, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Federal Republic of Nigeria. She also praised the African Union, the People's Republic of China, the United Kingdom, Ghana, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, among others. The U.S., which has been a strong and reliable partner of Liberia, led international efforts for the rebuilding of the Liberian army and coast guard. The AFL was demobilized at the end of the Liberian Civil War to allow for the establishment of the reformed and retrained armed forces.

Liberia Makes Giant Leap (cont'd from page 1)

\$230 million. On January 25, 2014, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf broke grounds for the rehabilitation of the Mount Coffee Hydro Plant, terming the occasion as "a good day for Liberia in its quest for affordable energy." In her brief remarks at the site in Harrisburg, Lower Montserrado County, President Sirleaf said the rehabilitation marks the beginning of a life change for the people of Liberia.

The Ambassadors of the two fund contributing countries, Norway and Germany, in separate remarks, reaffirmed their respective countries' commitment to collaborating with the Government of Liberia in rehabilitating its energy program.

Also speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony, Finance Minister Amara Konneh disclosed that the cost of the rehabilitation and upgrading of the Mount Coffee Hydro Plant is estimated at US \$230 million. To fund the project, he added that the Government has concluded a US \$65 million concessional loan deal with the European Central Bank, while donors have committed US \$107 million. Germany and Norway have pledged grants of US \$32 million and US \$75 million, respectively, while the Liberian Government has budgeted US \$45 million for the project. The remaining funds will be raised through the European Investment Bank as a loan and would help to fast track the loan acquisition. The Mount Coffee Hydro Plant was dedicated by President William V.S. Tubman in 1964 and served as a cheap and affordable source of electricity until its destruction during Liberia's civil war. The Liberian Government's effort to electrify the country is also gaining added boost under the West African Power Pool (WAPP), a World Bank sponsored project that includes financing the infrastructure of the transmission interconnection between the Ivory Coast, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. It is under the WAPP that power lines from the Ivory Coast connecting Liberia were tested in Sanniquellie and other parts of Nimba County in July 2013. Grand Gedeh and Maryland counties, which are along Liberia's border with the Ivory Coast, are to also benefit under WAPP. During a visit to Africa from June 27-July 2, 2013, U.S. President Barak Obama announced the "Power Africa" program, "a new five-year Presidential Initiative to work with America's partners in Africa and the United States to increase investment and leverage America's position with energy technologies, private investment, policy reform, and investment regulations to increase Africa's energy supply." Liberia is among six countries - Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Tanzania - as the first beneficiaries of the "Power Africa" program.

The Liberian Embassy Newsletter

Washington D. C., USA



Volume II No. I

Page 10

March 2014

Embassy Expands to Improve Services



According to the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Liberia near Washington D.C., an additional work space has been constructed at the Chancery at 5201 16th Street, N.W., in an effort to improve services here in the United States. The garage - which was not being used - and an adjoining storage room have been transformed into a workable office space. The Office of Economic Affairs and the Embassy's new telephone call center will occupy the new office space, which includes a guest waiting room and a bathroom. The Chancery was purchased by the Liberian Government in 1947. Initially, the Chancery also served as the Ambassador's residence during the tenure of the first Liberian Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Charles D.B. King. Ambassador King earlier served as Liberia's 16th President, 1920-1930.

Embassy Gets New Economic Affairs Counselor

The Embassy of Liberia in the United States has a new Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs. She is Mrs. Famatta Deline. Minister Counselor Deline's office is clothed with the responsibility to promote trade and investment between Liberia and the U.S. Mrs. Deline joins the staff at the Embassy with vast knowledge and experience, having worked at the Consulate General of Liberia in New York for 10 years as Deputy Consul General.

China Union Iron ore shipment *(cont'd from page 1)*

and completion of repairs on the railroad between Bong Mines and Monrovia. According to an Executive Mansion release, at a ceremony at the Freeport of Monrovia, President Sirleaf, in a joyous mood, termed the event as a fulfilled promise to the people of Liberia, with a renewed commitment that proceeds from the shipment would strictly be used for the betterment of the Liberian people.

China Union projects to export 500,000 metric tons of iron ore by the end of December 2014, at about 50,000 metric tons per month.

On the welfare of the Liberian workforce employed by China Union, President Sirleaf said the government has remained engaged with the company regarding the welfare of local employees in keeping with Liberian labor law. "While we engage China Union to improve conditions, we are equally calling on Liberians to cooperate with us as the process is gradual," she told cheering local employees at the shipment pier.

China Union plans to double its workforce from 232 to 459 local employees, and with its first export and increased employment, the company is poised to economically revitalize the former Bong Mines area and provide its people a sustainable livelihood.

Earlier, the Chairman of China Union Investment Liberia Limited, Xiong Xinhai, said the first shipment of ore by his company marks the official start of iron ore mining operations on the Bong Range. He pledged his company's fullest cooperation with the Liberian government in realizing its benefit from the concession agreement while living up to its corporate social responsibility.

Liberia Reselected for MCC Compact *(cont'd from page 3)*

which also included a private sector investment forum with representatives from international and Liberian businesses. These consultations will enable the Government of Liberia and MCC to benefit from the perspectives and expertise of potential investors and collaborators in the Liberian economy, learn about company strategies for investment in Liberia and identify potential partners. The Government of Liberia proposed several concepts to MCC in the roads, agriculture and energy sectors, to address these constraints and achieve sustainable economic growth. These concepts are preliminary and mark the beginning of an extensive project development and due diligence process led by the Government of Liberia. The two public forums, which took place at the MCC Headquarters in Washington, were held in partnership with the Embassy of Liberia in Washington, D. C. Please check the Embassy's website at: www.liberianembassyus.org to find the pdf file link to the Constraints Analysis of the MCC's Liberia Compact Development.

The Liberian Embassy Newsletter

Washington D. C., USA



Volume II No. I

Page II

March 2014

Pres. Sirleaf Urges World Leaders to Emulate Mandela



PRETORIA, South Africa, Dec. 11 (LINA) - President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf says the aura of the Memorial Service and viewing of the body of global icon and campaigner of world peace and human rights, Nelson Mandela, should inspire world leaders and peoples of all nations to follow his exemplary deeds in the legacy he now leaves.

The Liberian leader said she was honored to have been a part of the official events leading to the final burial of Mr. Nelson Mandela. According to a dispatch from South Africa, President Johnson-Sirleaf and Eminent Statesman Dr. Amos Sawyer were among leaders from around the world to view the mortal remains of the former President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, who passed away on December 5th, in his 95th year.

The Liberian Leader was among the first set of world leaders joining President Jacob Zuma and the Family of the late Mandela to view the body and pay their last respects to the fallen anti-apartheid freedom fighter and South Africa's first democratically-elected Black President.

to help rebuild the country since the end of a devastating four-year civil conflict in 2003. Her connection to Liberia began in 1974 when she became the first Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar in Liberia, living in-country until 1975 and attending the University of Liberia after serving as a schoolteacher in Yekepa, Nimba County. An Atlanta businesswoman in her own right, Hon. Blandford is President and CEO of Global Strategies for Good, LLC, a resource development and relationship management firm specializing in international business-to-business matchmaking, conference planning, fundraising and travel and tourism. Her more recent efforts have included conducting more than 20 medical and humanitarian missions, education and economic development trips, including trade ventures over the past 6-years. Consul General Blandford was instrumental in helping to establish five American businesses in Liberia during the recent business and education conference in the areas of IT, E-Commerce, Travel and Tourism, Security and Mining.



National Port Authority Managing Director Matilda Parker and Georgia Port Authority Executive Director Curtis Foltz sign MOU, while Hon. Cynthia Blandford observes.

Liberian Consulate in Georgia (cont'd from pg 5)

In May 2010, Consul General Blandford assisted in a US \$2 million donation of medical supplies to the Government and people of Liberia from MAP International that was distributed to all 15 counties of Liberia. Despite some of the accomplishments highlighted, the Honorary Consul General is mindful that in order to promote economic development and trade and encourage U.S. businesses and the private sector to invest in Liberia, the country must have consistent Internet capacity and cell phone lines, and a sustainable energy source. Hon. Blandford is no stranger to Liberia. She has been involved in efforts

She is on the board of MAP International and has served as Vice President for the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter, and Foundation Director for the Atlanta West End Rotary Club. Located in the downtown district near the CNN Headquarters, Coca Cola Company and Atlanta City Government, the Liberian Consulate is addressed at: **225 Peachtree Street, N.E., Suite 515 Peachtree Center South Tower Atlanta, GA 30303 Telephone: (404) 565-1154 Fax: (866) 630-9344 Website: www.liberianconsulatega.com Email: cblandford@liberianconsulatega.com.**

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.

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

Jan 1	New Year Day
Feb. 11	Armed Forces Day
March (2nd Wednesday)	Decoration Day
March 15	JJ Roberts Birthday
April (2nd Friday)	Fast and Prayer Day
April**	Good Friday
May 14	National Unification Day
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

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