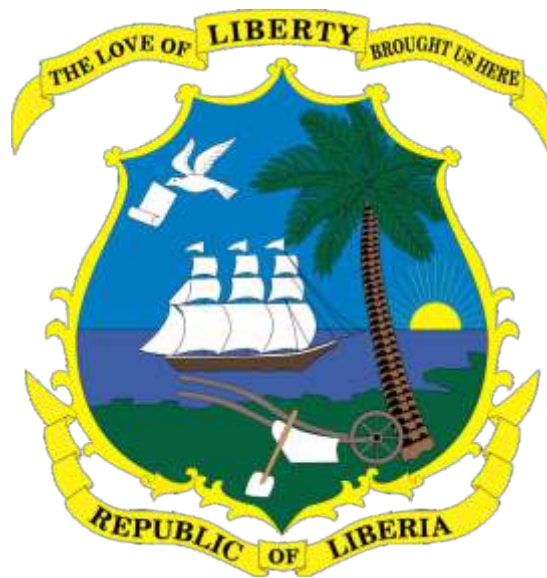


Annual Report

OF THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



TO THE
53RD NATIONAL LEGISLATURE

CAPITOL HILL
MONROVIA, LIBERIA

COVERING THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1ST – DECEMBER 31ST, 2015

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I. LIBERIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is pleased to report that, in fulfillment of its statutory mandate to assist the President of the Republic of Liberia to formulate foreign policy and implement foreign relations consistent with Liberia's national interests, Liberia continues to maintain closer ties of friendship, goodwill and mutual respect and peace with all nations and peoples of Africa, the Americas, Europe, Asia and the Pacific region and the Middle East, particularly with those nations and international organizations which have diplomatic relations with Liberia.

The report highlights Liberia's role in these regions as well as efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in maintaining a closer watch on international developments of importance to the interests of the nation. Also, the Ministry over the period under review, strove to bolster Liberia's capacity to achieve a dignified status by playing active roles in the field of political stability, economic and social development to ensure that the Liberian society maximizes benefits from the country's participation in international and regional cooperation.

The strategic objective has been to strengthen the platform which will promote a paradigm shift from traditional diplomacy to development diplomacy, and effectively contribute to Liberia's long-term development framework dubbed "Agenda 2030", and the country's post-Ebola Economic Recovery and Stabilization Plan.

In pursuit of broadening the scope of the nation's foreign policy objectives in light of the geo-political shifts and changes in overall global trends affecting the role and conduct of international relations, the Ministry remains principally focused on the interests and security of the State, with economic and human development being the primary features. This has been particularly responsible for the unprecedented show of solidarity by the international community which contributed indispensable technical advice and support to Government in its response to contain the Ebola Virus Disease in Liberia.

Official Visits & Missions of the President of Liberia, H.E. Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

Against the backdrop of strategically repositioning Liberia and exerting its global influence to support economic development and transformation, H.E. Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, made several Official Visits abroad, notably to Japan, India, China, the United States, the Kingdom of Belgium, Germany, Kenya and the United Nations.

The President led a high-level delegation from 27 to 30 August, 2015, to Japan where she served as Keynote Speaker at the Second World Assembly for Women at the invitation of H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan. While in Japan, she also held bilateral discussion with the Prime Minister.

The President attended the Third India-Africa Forum Summit convened from 28 to 30 October, 2015, and held bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on a wide range of issues of mutual interest including a US\$144 million line of credit opened to Liberia to facilitate transmission and distribution of power across the country.

From India, Her Excellency travelled to Beijing, the People's Republic of China from November 1-5 to honor an invitation extended her by President Xi Jiping.

Three important Partnership Framework Agreements emanated from bilateral discussions between the two Heads of State, including Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement for bilateral aid worth approximately US\$47.35 million, Agreement on Mutual Visa Exemption for Diplomatic Passport Holders from both countries, and Agreement on Maritime Program and Ship Registry. By signing these agreements, China committed to boost cooperation with Liberia in the areas of infrastructure, shipping, farming and fisheries, maritime, industrial capacity, and manufacturing for adding value to local products for the realization of economic growth and expansion in Liberia.

Preceding the President's visit to China, eight major Chinese companies visited Liberia and signed four MoUs with Government in the areas of fisheries, infrastructure development, agriculture and transportation.

Presidential Visits Abroad

February 15, 2015 - H. E. Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf visited Conakry, Guinea to attend an Extraordinary Session of the Mano River Union.

February 21, 2015 - President Sirleaf departed the country for official visits to the United States and Belgium. This was her second visit outside Liberia since the intensification of the Ebola crisis in 2014. She made a brief stop-over in the Emirate of Sharjah, one of the states of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), to share her experience in Crisis Management at the International Government Communication Forum. She then traveled on to Washington, D.C., United States of America to meet with US President Barack Obama.

President Sirleaf later travelled to Brussels, Belgium to participate in an Ebola Conference organized by the European Union (EU). The conference brought together the three most affected Mano River Union countries (Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone) where she performed the role of spokesperson for the three countries. From Brussels, the Liberian leader returned to the United States, where she participated in the 20th anniversary celebration of the Beijing Platform for Action at the UN Headquarters in New York.

March 4, 2015 - H.E. Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf addressed ACP-EU Parliamentarians in Brussels and held discussions with top level European Union Executives H.E. Donald Tusk, President of the European Council and Mr. Christos Stylianides, Head of the European Union Commission on Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management.

April 13, 2015 - President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf departed the country for an official visit to Washington, D.C., United States of America. The Liberian leader, who was away until April 21, responded to an invitation extended by the President of the World Bank, Dr. Jim Yong Kim, to participate in discussions with international partners on the status of the containment of the Ebola virus disease and plans for post-Ebola reconstruction of the three worst Ebola affected countries - Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Presidents Alpha Conde and Ernest Bai Koroma also participated in the discussions.

April 26, 2015 - President Sirleaf paid a two-day visit to Abidjan, La Cote d'Ivoire where she held bilateral talks with President Alassane Ouattara.

May 18, 2015 - President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf departed the country to attend the 47th Ordinary Session of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government in Accra, Ghana.

May 24, 2015 - President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf departed the country to attend the Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) which took place in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire from May 25 to 29, 2015.

May 29, 2015 - President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf attended the inauguration of Nigeria's newly elected President Muhammadu Buhari in Abuja, Nigeria. She was away for one-day.

June 4, 2015 - President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf departed the country for Schloss Elmau in Upper Bavaria, Germany to attend the 41st summit meeting of the heads of state and government of the Group of Seven (G7) nations.

June 10, 2015 – The President departed the country to attend the 25th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Johannesburg, South Africa; held under theme “*Year of Women’s Empowerment and Development towards Africa’s Agenda 2016*”.

June 28, 2015 – The President departed the country for Conakry, Guinea to attend the 3rd Extraordinary Summit of the Mano River Union.

July 7, 2015 – The President departed the country for official visits to the United States of America and Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. At the invitation of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the Liberian leader joined her colleagues, Guinean President, Dr. Alpha Condé and Sierra Leonean President, Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, three countries worse affected by the Ebola virus, to attend an International Ebola Recovery Conference at the UN Headquarters in New York.

July 14-15, 2015 - The President attended the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Conference resulted in an intergovernmental negotiated and agreed outcome, which constituted an important contribution to and support to the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

August 25, 2015 - President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf departed the country for Tokyo, Japan to attend the 2nd World Assembly for Women: WAW 2015 which ran from August 28 to 29, 2015. President Sirleaf served as keynote speaker.

September 15, 2015 - President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf departed the country for Berlin, German to participate in series of meetings with the German Chancellor Angela Merkel and other women leaders that focused on improvement in health systems.

September 18, 2015 - President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, at the head of a high-level delegation, arrived in New York, United States of America where she participated in the 70th United Nations General Assembly and other high-level meetings which kicked off on September 25th 2015. The United Nations 70th Session, which officially began on September 15th, 2015 was held under the theme: “Human Rights, Peace and Security.”

October 26, 2015 - President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf departed the country for official visits to India and the People's Republic of China (PRC) beginning October 27 through November 6, 2015. At the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Sirleaf attend the India-Africa Forum Summit which convened from 28th to 30th October 2015 in New Delhi, India. While in India the President held bilateral meetings with Prime Minister Modi. She renegotiated the US\$144 million credit line opened to Liberia during the last visit by Madam President as well as talks on agriculture, health, education and youth issues.

November 1, 2015 - President Sirleaf arrived in Beijing, People's Republic of China at the start of a four-day state visit to the world's most populous nation; a second state visit in 10 years. The Beijing visit secured additional development assistance from the Chinese Government and attracted potential Chinese investments, in light of the recent Chinese Win-Win Business Mission to Liberia. Moreover, the President's visit to China culminated into the signing of a Mutual Visa Waiver agreement and an agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between our two sides.

December 1, 2015 - President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, at the head of a high-level delegation, departed the country to participate in the Second Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Johannesburg, South Africa from December 4-5, 2015.

December 10-17, 2015 – President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf departed the country for Nairobi, Kenya where she attended three major events - a State Visit, an International Forum on Women in Business and the World Trade Organization (WTO) 10th Ministerial Conference, which marked Liberia's landmark accession to the WTO.

High-Level Visits to Liberia

January 5, 2015, H.E. Mr. Mohammed Ould Abdel Aziz, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Chairman of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the African Union paid a solidarity visit to Liberia.

January 7, 2015, the Presidents of Benin and Niger, H.E. Thomas Yayi Boni and H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou, respectively visited Liberia to show support and feeling of solidarity for the Government and people of Liberia as they combat the Ebola Virus Disease.

February 6, 2015, the President of Togo and head of ECOWAS Region's Ebola Virus Disease Response and Eradication Process, His Excellency Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe, paid a one-day solidarity visit to Liberia, He was accompanied by the President of the ECOWAS Commission, Kadre Desire Ouedrago.

February 10, 2015, the President of Guinea and Chairman of the Mano River Union, H.E. Mr. Alpha Conde paid a one-day visit to Liberia to discuss issues pertaining to the Ebola crisis in the sub-region and extended President Sirleaf an invitation to participate in a one-day Extraordinary Ordinary MRU Summit in Conakry, Guinea.

February 17, 2015, Her Excellency Ms. Isabella Lovin, Minister of International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Sweden visited Liberia and held a bilateral meeting with Her Excellency Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia. During this meeting, Ms. Lovin announced the Swedish Government's New Strategic Development Plan for Liberia, starting 2015.

February 19-21, 2015, Dr. Carlos Lopes, Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) paid an official visit to the country.

May 4, 2015, the former President of the United States of America, H.E. William (Bill) Clinton, visited Liberia and met with senior health officials/authorities of the Government and international partners for an update on the Ebola crisis and how the Clinton Foundation could be of help to Liberia as it tries to rebuild its health sector.

May 19, 2015, Ghanaian President and then Chairman of ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government, His Excellency Dr. John Dramani Mahama paid a solidarity visit to Liberia.

May 18-21, 2015, H.E. Mr. Kaoru Yoshimura, Ambassador of Japan to Liberia with residence in Accra, and delegation visited Liberia where there was an Exchange of Notes between the Government of Liberia and the Government of Japan for petroleum aid under the Non-Project Grant Aid (NPGA). Ambassador Yoshimura used the occasion to turn over to Government 8,000 metric tons of rice, representing the 5th round of food aid.

May 22, 2015, the Chinese Special Envoy of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and former Ambassador of China (PRC) to Liberia, H. E. Amb. Zhou Yuxiao visited Liberia to strength bilateral cooperation within the framework of FOCAC, as well as to discuss with the Liberian side on international and regional issues of mutual interests.

June 11-14, 2015, H.E. Dr. Toga Gayewea McIntosh, Vice President of ECOWAS Commission led a high-powered delegation to Liberia to consult with Government on steps that could be taken to comply with the implementation of ECOWAS Protocols.

June 21, 2015, the Israeli Ambassador to Liberia met with officials of the Liberian Government and partners on how to improve relations.

June 23, 2015, the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Dr. Joan Clos and United Kingdom's former Secretary of State for International Development and Senior Policy Advisor of Cities Alliance, UN-HABITAT were guests of the Liberian Government and the City Corporation of Monrovia.

July 1, 2015, the ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace & Security, Madam Salamatu H. Suleiman and delegation paid a two-day visit to Liberia.

July 6, 2015, the Minister for Trade and Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Honorable Lilianne Ploumen and delegation visited the country as guests of the Liberian Government to discuss trade issues.

July 16, 2015, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Ms Christine Lagarde and delegation paid a two-day visit to Liberia as guests of the Liberian Government.

July 31, 2015, a 16-member Trade Delegation from the People's Republic of China visited Liberia to explore the need for possible investment. The visit was dubbed: "2015 Sino-Liberia Win-Win Visit".

July 31, 2015, the President of the International Emergency Management Organization (IEMO), Dr. Alessandro Manini visited Liberia to contribute to our Post Ebola Recovery plan and identify areas for possible investment.

August 5, 2015, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and Chairman of the United Nations Secretary-General High-Level Panel on the Global Response to Health Crises, H.E. Mr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete and delegation paid a solidarity visit to the Liberian Government and people.

August 8, 2015, the Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Wang Yi visited Liberia to assess the progress made on the fight against Ebola and other major sectors vital for intervention; mainly ongoing projects undertaken by the Chinese Government. He held bilateral discussion with former Foreign Minister; the Honorable Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, to assess the impact of Ebola to determine what assistance China could give in Liberia's post-Ebola economic resurgence efforts. The Chinese Foreign Minister also paid a courtesy call on Her Excellency Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf during his brief stay in Monrovia.

August 13, 2015, the Vice President of the ECOWAS Commission, Dr. Toga Gayewea McIntosh visited the country to discuss Liberia's implementation of the Community Levy Protocol.

August 14, 2015, a Turkish delegation from the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality-Turkey and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were guests of the Monrovia City Corporation where they also turned over 20 buses to the MCC.

August 20, 2015, the Ambassador of Japan to Liberia, H.E. Mr. Kaoru Yoshimura paid a courtesy call on the President of the Republic of Liberia and to inform her of the recommencement of all Japanese projects in the country after the Ebola crisis.

September 7, 2015, the Liberia – Japanese political Dialogue was held. The Director General for African Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Ambassador Norio Maruyam and delegation were in country for the Dialogue focused on key areas such as Health, Agriculture, Mining, Justice and the Rule of Law, etc.

September 22, 2015, the Vice President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Honorable Victor Bockarie Foh paid a visit to Liberia where he also served as Commencement Speaker at the Cuttington University commencement convocation.

October 23, 2015, the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, His Excellency Ernest Bai Koroma, en route to the India – Africa Summit Meeting in Delhi, India, made a stop over to meet with President Sirleaf at the Roberts International Airport.

Also during the period, and in solidarity with the Government of Liberia's fight against Ebola, two separate high level visits were made to the Republic of Liberia. Among them were AU Commission Chairperson, Dr. Nkosazana Zuma and the President of the Republic of Mali, H. E. Ibrahim Keita.

II. INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATIONS

During the year, 2015, Liberia maintained a bond of closer and stronger ties of friendship with her traditional partners and opened avenues of engagement and mutual cooperation and solidarity with others in pursuit of her national interest and foreign policy, which is firmly rooted in the cardinal principles of sovereign equality and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, the cultivation of friendly ties with other member states of the international community, and the settlement of disputes through dialogue and negotiations. In pursuit of the nation's foreign policy and foreign relations, the Government remained focused on the national interest and security of the state, with economic development being a prominent pendulum.

As a prominent and responsible member of the international community, Liberia has been keen on observing developments in the comity of nations that either positively or negatively impacted relations among nations.

The year under review was a year of enormous challenges for the world community. The turmoil in Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Libya, South Sudan, Central African Republic and many other countries brought untold suffering to thousands. This sparked new elevations and serious humanitarian crises.

Consequently, at least 60 million people fled their homes – the highest number of displaced since World War II on death-defying journeys across seas, seeking safe haven. More than 3,500 refugees are estimated to have died or got missing, including the heart-rending incident of a toddler, Alan Kurdi whose lifeless body was washed ashore on a Turkish beach.

The reign of terror was elevated to a new level during the year under review as fanatic groups such as Al-Qaeda, Al-Shabaab, and most recently the Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS); the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, (ISIL); and the Islamic State (IS) not only killed thousands in the name of Islam, but sent millions of people in the Middle East and beyond running for their lives, while their followers have spread fear throughout the world.

To highlight a few of the hundreds of attacks at different locations around the world, in January, twelve people were killed in the Charlie Hebdo shooting at the end of three-days of bloodshed which began with an attack on a French striatal newspaper in Paris, France; in Kenya, in April, a day-long siege of Garissa University left 147 students dead in a militant attack; in October, a Russian passenger plane was brought down over the Sinai Peninsula, killing all 224 people on board; in November, an attack around Paris, France left 130 dead in attacks that ISIL claims coordinated gun and suicide attacks on nightspots; the list is endless as other devastating casualties flared up in other areas across the world.

Africa was not spared the terror spate. The reemergence of the militant Islamist group, Boko Haram and its allegiance to ISIS, has grown to present a threat not only to Nigeria, but also across Africa and globally. The regional dimension of Boko Haram extends beyond its attacks. The group's criminal activities, such as arms smuggling and drug trafficking, involve several countries, including Chad, the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Benin, Niger, Mali, Sudan, Somalia and Libya.

In the past six years, Boko Haram has killed more than 20,000 people in its wave of terror attacks. Two and a half million people either fled across borders or are homeless in their own country. With terrorism

spreading in Nigeria and among its neighbors, in November, there was a deadly hostage drama at a Malian Hotel when gunmen stormed the five-star Radisson Blu hotel in Bamako, Mali, taking hostages and killing at least 21 persons.

However, in September, world leaders converged on the United Nations and took up the fight against terrorism. By November, the United Nations Security Council united to adopt a resolution to take all possible measures in compliance with the United Nations Charter, to prevent and suppress terrorist acts.

In September of the reporting period, the 193-Member United Nations General Assembly formally adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which sets a bold new global agenda to end poverty by 2030, and pursue a sustainable future. Ushering in a new era of national action and international cooperation, the new agenda commits every country to take an array of actions that would not only address the root causes of poverty, but would also increase economic growth and prosperity, and meet people's health, education and social needs, while protecting the environment over the next 15 years.

In December, representatives of 195 nations reached a landmark accord in Le Bourget, France that will, for the first time, commit nearly every country to lowering planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions to help stave off the most drastic effects of climate change. The deal represents a historic breakthrough on an issue that has foiled decades of international efforts to address climate change.

The new deal, will not, on its own, solve global warming. However, scientists analyzed that it will cut global greenhouse gas emissions by about half, enough as is necessary, to starve off an increase in atmospheric temperatures of 2 degrees Celsius or 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit. That is the point at which, scientific studies have concluded, the world will be locked into a future of devastating consequences, including rising sea levels, severe droughts and flooding, widespread food and water shortages, and more destructive storms. But the Paris deal could represent the moment at which, the inexorable rise in planet-warming carbon emissions that started during the Industrial Revolution began to level out and eventually decline because of a shift in global economic policy.

In July, Iran struck a landmark historic agreement with the U.S. and five other world powers, accepting strict constraints on its nuclear programme for the first time in a decade in exchange for partial relief from sanctions. The move was the first step in a six-month process aimed at a permanent resolution to the decade-old global impasse over Iran's nuclear programme, and heading off the threat of a new war in West Asia. The Geneva deal releases just over \$4 billion in Iranian oil sales revenue from frozen accounts, and suspends restrictions on the country's trade in gold, petrochemicals, vehicle and plane parts. In return, Iran promised to scale back dramatically its nuclear program and to reduce by two-thirds, the number of centrifuges it possessed.

Unlike 2014, which witnessed the deaths of thousands of compatriots in the Mano River Union basin as a result of the Ebola Virus Disease, 2015 saw signs of successes in West Africa's most affected Ebola countries - Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea - where the number of cases declined dramatically; thanks to collective action by communities, their governments, and the massive support from around the world. Although the outbreak is over, there is still fear of recurrent occurrences. But with new rapid diagnostic tests and a promising new vaccine, the communities now turn to a phase of vigilance to prevent the killer virus from taking hold again.

During the year under review, the Palestinian flag was, for the first time, raised at the United Nations following an address delivered by Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to the UN General Assembly on September 30, 2015. Mr. Abbas dedicated the ceremony to “the martyrs, the prisoners and the wounded, and to those who gave their lives while trying to raise this flag”.

On the democratic political path, elections took place in various countries that saw varying degrees of democratic advancement exhibited by the people across a broad spectrum. Likewise, other elections that should have ushered in democracy rather led to death, destruction and mayhem.

Specifically, in Africa, Mr. Muhammadu Buhari became the first Nigerian to defeat a sitting president in Africa's most populous country. Peaceful elections were also held in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea in the neighboring Mano River Region; after nearly three decades of autocratic rule followed by a civil uprising, Roch Marc Christian Kabore became Burkina Faso's new President after winning more than 53 percent of the votes; Ethiopia's ruling party strengthened grip on power, while the opposition failed to win a single seat as the ruling party and its allies swept parliamentary polls; Burundi's presidential elections in July followed months of protests and violence, including an attempted coup, after President Pierre Nkurunziza's successful bid for a third term in office. More than 100,000 Burundians have fled the country, many of them across the lake to Tanzania and Rwanda; in Central African Republic, violence has continued disrupting the political process, hindering the vital work of humanitarian agencies.

In Asia, Myanmar voted in November's landmark elections where the opposition party of long standing opposition leader, Anng San Suu Kyi, swept to power after the first open election in more than 25 years.

One bitter leftover of the Cold War slipped into the history books when the United States and Cuba re-established diplomatic relations. For the first time since severing ties in 1961, the two countries reopened their embassies in each other's capitals. Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla traveled to Washington to raise his country's flag at the Cuban Embassy, while Secretary of State John Kerry performed similar function by reopening the U.S. Embassy in Havana, Cuba in August. President Obama announced on July 1, 2015, the historic decision to re-establish diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States, effective July 20. Bilateral relations deteriorated substantially between Cuba and the United States following the communist takeover in 1959. The rapprochement was made possible through the intervention of the head of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis.

A number of Africans have been indicted by the International Criminal Court, including all individuals who have been indicted on counts of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, or contempt of court in the International Criminal Court (ICC) pursuant to the Rome Statute. To date, the ICC has opened investigations into nine situations in: the Democratic Republic of Congo; Uganda; the Central African Republic; Darfur, Sudan; the Republic of Kenya; Libya; the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire; the Republic of Mali; and the Central African Republic.

The ICC has issued arrest warrants for 31 individuals and summonses to eight others. Eight persons are in detention, including Thomas Lubanga Dyilo who was transferred to the Democratic Republic of Congo on 19 December, 2015, to serve a 14-year sentence. Proceedings against 25 other indictees are ongoing: nine are at large as fugitives, four are under arrest, but not in the Court's custody; two are in the pre-trial phase, and ten are at trial. Proceedings against 12 have been completed: two have been convicted, one has been acquitted, four have had the charges against them dismissed, two have had the charges

against them withdrawn, including Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta on 13 March 2015; while one has had his case declared inadmissible, and three have died before trial.

Football's World Governing Body, FIFA, during the year under review, was engulfed by scandalous claims of widespread corruption since May 2015, when the U.S. Department of Justice indicted several top executives.

Two of the most powerful men in football, FIFA President Sepp Blatter and European Football Federation (UEFA) President Michel Platini, were also affected after they were banned for eight years from all football-related activities by FIFA's Ethics Committee. A Swiss criminal investigation into the pair is also continuing. FIFA's President Sepp Blatter has always denied any wrongdoing - but in September, he too was made the subject of a Swiss criminal investigation, launched alongside the U.S. inquiry.

The scandal erupted in May, with a raid on a luxury hotel in Zurich and the arrest of seven FIFA executives - conducted at the request of the U.S. authorities. The US indicted 14 current and former FIFA officials and associates on charges of "rampant, systemic, and deep-rooted" corruption following a major inquiry by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). In December, 16 more officials were charged following the arrest of two FIFA Vice-Presidents at the same hotel in Zurich. Former Brazil Football Federation Chief, Ricardo Teixeira was among those accused of being "involved in criminal schemes involving well over \$200 million (£132 million) in bribes and kickbacks".

In April, 2015, an outbreak of Zika fever, caused by the Zika virus began in Brazil. The World Health Organization (WHO) has said the virus is spreading "explosively" in the Americas with active transmission in more than 20 countries including South America, Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Cases have also been reported that were imported from South America into Europe, Canada, United States, China, and Australia. In Brazil alone, 4,000 cases of microcephaly have been reported since the outbreak began. The WHO is anticipating 3 million to 4 million more Zika infections in the region in the next 12 months.

The virus is spread mainly by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which is commonly found throughout the tropical and subtropical Americas. It can also be spread by the *Aedes albopictus* ("Asian tiger") mosquito, which has become widespread as far north as the Great Lakes region in North America. Sexual transmission of the Zika virus is also possible.

The Zika virus was first isolated in 1947, in a rhesus monkey in the Zika Forest near Entebbe, Uganda. Brazilian researchers have suggested that the Zika virus arrived in the country from French Polynesia during the 2014 FIFA World Cup tournament, based on phylogenetic DNA analysis of the virus; French researchers speculated the virus arrived shortly afterwards, in August 2014, when canoeing teams from the Zika - afflicted Cook Islands, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, and Easter Island attended the Va'a World Sprint Championships in Rio de Janeiro. In May 2015, Zika virus was first confirmed as the cause of an outbreak of a dengue-like disease in northern, northeastern and southeastern Brazil. In the district of Camaçari, and the neighboring city of Salvador, capital of the state of Bahia, a previously unknown disease that caused flu-like symptoms, followed by rash and arthralgia, was shown to be caused by the Zika virus by researchers from the Federal University of Bahia, using the reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) technique. The virus reached Colombia in October and other countries in Latin America including the Caribbean in November and December. Confirmed cases have now been reported

in most of South and Central America, and the Caribbean. In its spread from Africa and Asia to Oceania and then to the Americas, Zika followed the same pattern as chikungunya after 2004.

On November 7, 2015, Ma Ying-jeou, President of the Republic of China on Taiwan (ROC), and Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC), and President of the People's Republic of China (PRC), met in Singapore. The meeting was the first between leaders of the two sides of the Taiwan Strait since the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949. The last encounter between communist and nationalist leaders came in August, 1945, when Mao and Chiang Kai-shek came together in Chongqing for seven weeks of talks.

The summit represented a high point in the seven-year rapprochement between Taipei and Beijing that began in 2008, when Ma Ying-jeou took office, vowing to end the political feud between the two sides. Ma, who will step down next year following a presidential election on 16 January, has overseen a striking improvement in relations with Beijing, which still regards Taiwan as a renegade province.

The meeting, the first between leaders of the two sides, is only the latest in a series of high-level encounters between China and Taiwan, which has been ruled as a de-facto independent state since China's civil war ended, in 1949, and Chiang Kai-shek's nationalists fled across the Taiwan Strait. The first meeting between representatives of the two sides came in 1993, when envoys from both sides met in Singapore for the first high-level talks since the war. In 2005, Nationalist Chairman Lien Chan, then leader of Taiwan's opposition, met Chinese President Hu Jintao in Beijing.

III. REGIONAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATIONS

Political Situation in Africa

During the year in review, overall peace and stability in most parts of the African Continent continued to be maintained. Nevertheless, the region experienced civil and political unrests which have exacerbated massive displacement of people and acute food shortages as precipitated by Boko Haram which had earlier determined to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere in Nigeria, and now, Cameroon, Niger, and Chad, through indiscriminate killings, displacement and abduction of innocent citizens.

The military conflicts in Somalia, South Sudan, Mali, the Central African Republic, and Burundi continue to defy regional and international mediation. Liberia, which still maintains a small contingent of troops within the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Mali, has called on all sides in these conflicts to commit to efforts aimed at securing peaceful resolution for the restoration of peace, stability and good governance. Concerns are also raised about the prevailing situation in Libya and its impact on the conduct of the ongoing transitional process, as well as regional security.

Liberia is also pleased that in its collaboration with other African countries particularly, ECOWAS Member States and the AU, peace and democratic governance has now returned to Burkina Faso. By the directive of the President, the Acting Foreign Minister represented Government at the inauguration and official swearing-in ceremony of President Rock Marc Christian Kabore, as new President of Burkina Faso, on December 29, 2015.

The political situation in Burundi continued to deteriorate as the opposition pressed for President Pierre Nkurunziza to leave power. There have been reports of mass killings and human rights violations by both the Burundian Government and the opposition.

In Africa, the Government of Liberia has been in support and welcomed the swift intervention of ECOWAS in the crisis in Burkina Faso that saw a portion of the military returning power to the transitional government. The positive developments underpinning Somalia's efforts to transition from the era of prolonged internal conflict were applauded by the African Union. However, concerns were raised at the prevailing situation in Libya and its impact on the conduct of the on-going transitional process, as well as regional security.

Liberia continues to play a pivotal role in the resolution of conflicts and unremitting political crises around Africa. Of key concerns are the long-running military conflicts in Somalia, South Sudan, Mali, and Nigeria, which have defied regional and international mediation. Liberia continues to urge all sides in these conflicts to commit to international and regional efforts to secure peaceful resolution and chart a new path of social and economic development to restore the livelihood of their people. Liberia continues to call for an amicable resolution of these crises and also calls for swift return to democratic governance in these friendly states. In Mali, Liberia still maintains a small contingent of Liberian troops within the UN peacekeeping Mission in Mali, MINUSMA.

Liberia's Relations with African Union

As a founding member of the African Union, Liberia has actively participated in the activities organized by the Commission of the Union. The President of the Republic of Liberia has served as Chair of several committees and initiatives under the mandate of the African Union with great distinction and admiration.

Notably, as Chair of the High-Level Committee of African Heads of State, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf skillfully steered the formulation of a Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda which identified substantive issues of importance to Africa, which were mostly captured in the final document of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly last September.

After successfully chairing the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) for one year, President Sirleaf ceded authority to the President of Kenya who is the current Chair. Among the many gains made under her leadership, a cardinal accomplishment was the integration of the body in to the African Union institution and structure.

Liberia's Participation in ECOWAS and MRU

Liberia fully participated in all expert, ministerial and summit meetings of the sub-regional organization (ECOWAS) and Mano River Union (MRU). However, volatility has been experienced in the sub-region as a result of multiple political and security challenges, mainly linked to transnational crimes, drug trafficking, terroristic activities, including democratic-related tensions in some of the Member States.

Bilateral and Economic Cooperation

As a result of an intense diplomacy and concrete confidence- building measures, Liberia continued to pursue aggressive development diplomacy through the conclusion of several bilateral agreements with friendly countries including the Republic of Colombia, Singapore, Malaysia, the Kingdom of Morocco, Thailand, China, Netherlands, Qatar, India and Japan. A similar number of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) as well as Statements of Intent for the establishment of Political Consultation Mechanism was also concluded between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministries of Foreign Affairs of South Africa, Republic of Georgia, Thailand, Kenya, Japan and the People's Republic of China. Specifically, the agreements called for mutual abolition of visas for holders of diplomatic passports between the Government of Liberia and the countries concerned.

In an effort to enhance its bilateral cooperation with Liberia, the Government of the People's Republic of China made two direct donations to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including a US\$320,000 donation which the Ministry has decided to utilize for the construction of a VIP lounge at the Roberts International Airport; and a donation of 16 vehicles to strengthen state protocol services.

UNMIL Operation

The Government of Liberia expressed its appreciation to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) for its outstanding contribution to peace and security over the last thirteen years in Liberia, culminating into two successful general and presidential elections in the country. Despite these major gains, the Government of Liberia has welcomed the United Nations Security Council's decision to transition security responsibilities from UNMIL to the national authorities. While assuming its security responsibilities shortly, the Government of Liberia remains hopeful that the international community, including bilateral and multilateral partners will continue to assist Government with the necessary resources required to bridge critical gaps to facilitate a successful transition, thus improving the capacity and capability of the Liberia National Police, the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, the Drug Enforcement Agency, and the justice system generally.

As Liberia prepares to assume full responsibility for its Security, UNMIL will continue its phased drawdown, most significantly by June 2016. It is expected that the reduced strength of UNMIL military personnel and some police units would remain at 1,240 and 606, respectively. Equally, the Mission's civilian capacity will be rationalized, in accordance with its streamline substantive mandate. In this respect, the Council also called on Member States of the United Nations and multilateral organizations to continue to provide financial, technical and other assistance to Liberia to enable the country assume full responsibilities for its security.

Meanwhile, an Early Response Force is being mobilized in Côte d'Ivoire, under the United Nations, to respond to any destabilizing event beyond the capability of Government.

IV. CONSTRAINTS

1. Liberian Embassies in various jurisdictions around the world face numerous challenges, which if left unattended, will continue to impact negatively on the effective delivery of diplomatic services. There continues to be delays in remittances and inadequacy of the operational funds. Timeliness of

remittances is very important to avoid embassies operating in deficit. Critical steps are required to augment and improve the current remittances of the operational funds for the smooth operation of the Missions.

2. Diplomatic staff at various missions continue to serve under difficult conditions. The cost of living at these posts is very high and difficult for the staff to manage under such challenging conditions. There is a need for the Ministry to urgently consider cost of living adjustment for staff in order to provide relief against the high cost of living.
3. Another serious constraint is the transmission of salaries for both diplomatic and local staff on time. Most times salaries and allowances are delayed up to two months considering that diplomatic and local staff have no other means of surviving and taking care of their monthly expenditure, which should be settled promptly at the end of each month. In addition, there is a need to revisit education and health insurance for diplomatic and local staff at various missions across the world. It is hoped that appropriate mechanisms will be put in place in advance to avoid the predicament the embassies face, especially with regards support to various missions including rent, utilities, building repair, furniture, vehicles, operational funds and the payment of embassy and local staff.
4. During the reporting period, most of Liberia's missions experienced financial, logistical and human resource challenges. The understaffing of these missions has undermined the efficient and effective representation and adequate pursuit of Liberia's interest.

V. OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

During the period under review, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs achieved the following deliverables:

A. Department of Foreign Affairs

Professionalization of the Liberian Foreign Service

1. A full Foreign Service review and assessment was carried out to facilitate a comprehensive rotation and deployment plan for the personnel of the service.
2. Initiation of modalities for harmonization and modernization of Liberian visa regime. This mechanism once finalized will ensure an automated electronic system which captures all Liberian visas issued globally, including location of issuance and duration. This system will strengthen our border security, bring integrity to our visa regime and ultimately increase revenue from visa issuance.

B. Department of Administration

1. Thirty-eight (38) local and international scholarships to employees for both short-term and long-term training programs.
2. Developed a vehicle policy to guide the use and maintenance of the protocol vehicles - 12 sedans and four buses donated by the People's Republic of China for the dignified conveyance of foreign dignitaries, VIPs, and other important guests.

3. Activities for the construction, renovation, refurbishment, and the purchase of land for selected Liberian foreign missions are underway for the missions in (i) Accra, (ii) Addis Ababa, (iii) Conakry, (iv) Stockholm, (v) Freetown, (vi) New Rochelle, (vii) Abidjan, and (viii) London missions. Additionally, representation and/or utility vehicles were purchased for the following missions: (i) Addis Ababa, (ii) Conakry, (iii) Abidjan, (iv) Paris, (v) Beijing, (vi) Accra, and (vii) Rabat. Major auto repairs were paid for at the Cairo Mission.
4. A reporting template was developed and distributed to all Embassies and Consulates to facilitate the ease of the reporting of consular activities. Most of the missions have started to use the template which has improved the reporting and collection of consular fees;
5. The improvement of the recording and reporting of financial activities of the Ministry. This is reflected in the timely transfer of funds to our missions and the processing of financial documents at the Home Office.

C. Department of Legal Affairs

1. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs concluded 17 Protocols, Agreements and other Legal Instruments with the following countries and international organization pending ratification: Republic of Mauritania, the People's Republic of China, Japan, the United States of America, the Republic of Georgia, the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of South Africa.
2. These agreements cover ascension to the WTO, West Africa Power Pool Project, Agriculture and Fisheries, Light Industry for Value Addition, Duty Free Treatment for Liberian products to China, Technical Vocational Training, and Political Consultation Frameworks, among others.

D. Foreign Service Inspectorate

1. Upon assuming office, the Inspector General of the Foreign Service, Mrs. Marie Coleman, conducted inspections at Liberia's diplomatic missions in Paris, London, Brussels, Berlin, Rome, and Geneva. The exercise concentrated on evaluation of the proficient staffing level, adequate representation, review of revenue generation, remittances and setting up of a uniform accounting system and functional internal control measures for the disbursement of funds provided by the Government.

A. HOME OFFICE OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Department of Foreign Affairs is the principal department of the Ministry with the following statutory functions: to assist the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the discharge of his/her duties; and to have full knowledge of the day-to-day operation of all bureaus within the Ministry so as to facilitate the necessary

continuity and smoothness in all spheres of the Ministry's operation in the event where he/she has to deputize in the Minister's absence.

The Department of Foreign Affairs administers the Foreign Service under the supervision of the Minister and coordinates activities of the Foreign Service and of other Government agencies. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs performs other functions regulated by law or international agreements to which the Republic of Liberia is a party or signatory.

The Department's strategic objective is to develop a transformative platform that promotes the paradigm shift from traditional diplomacy to development diplomacy and effectively contribute to Liberia's post-Ebola recovery and long-term socio-economic development. The Department is also guided by the following strategic objectives to fulfil its mandate: To facilitate the promotion and maintenance of sound and effective socio-economic and political relations between Liberia and its international partners; To promote a career diplomatic service that will be merit-based through the vetting of high calibre personnel with capability to facilitate and coordinate economic activities such as trade, tourism, investments and international cooperation and integration.

The Department's mission is therefore to coordinate, formulate and implement Liberia's foreign policy that advances and safeguards Liberia's national interests with emphasis on development diplomacy and providing efficient and responsive Consular services to Liberians at home and abroad.

The Department of Foreign Affairs consists of the following Offices and Bureaus: Office of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Office of the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bureau of Afro-Asian & Middle Eastern Affairs, Bureau of European Affairs and the Bureau of American Affairs.

Mr. B. Elias Shoniyin serves as Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, while Ms. Abratha P. Doe serves as Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Strategic Expansion of Liberia's Global Influence for Effective Delivery and Economic Development

Foreign Service Rotation/Retirement

In line with the Ministry's plan to rotate and honorably retire long service officers, a comprehensive matrix to adequately inform the decision for rotation and retirement of Foreign Service Officers was developed and forwarded to all Liberia's missions to gather needed information of personnel in the Foreign Service; tenure in service, initial and current position, curriculum vitae, etc.

This exercise was successfully implemented and all relevant information was received, analyzed and an informed decision was made as evidence by the President Sirleaf's approval of initial 19 Foreign Service Officers for posting and rotation into the Foreign Service; an inclusive proposal to successfully retire three Ambassadors and two Foreign Service Officers based on the requirements stipulated in the Foreign Service Manual is being finalized for onward transmittal to the Civil Service Agency for implementation.

Restructuring of the Foreign Service

Consistent with the implementation of this program, detailed information was circulated to Liberia's missions apprising them of the "Transformation of Liberian Foreign Service" indicating the Ministry's plan to transform Liberia's Foreign Service into a professional and responsive institution, under the theme: *"Strategically Repositioning and Exerting Liberia's Global Influence for Rapid Economic Development and Transformation"*. It noted the six month plan "Modernization of Liberia's Foreign Service for effective Delivery and Strategic Engagement" as the initial step.

Foreign Service Expansion Plan and Recruitment Plan

In tune with the Ministry's six-month plan, Administration has been requested to consider the dispatch of Ambassador Francis Karpeh on an assessment mission for the opening of an Embassy in Brazil; while our Saudi Mission is fully operational in Riyadh; Expansion of Liberia diplomatic presence strategically by establishing new missions in South Korea, India, Sweden, and Australia remain highlighted among the priorities of the Ministry

Foreign Service Recruitment Plan

Contingent to this initiative, a Foreign Service Personnel Data Form was developed and circulated to all our missions in order to have full details of all personnel including local staff; the information generated was analyzed and captured into a database. This information was used to develop a comprehensive recruitment plan with a budget and submitted to the President for approval. At the moment, the plan is being used for the current recruitment in the Foreign Service.

Regularizing Liberia's Diplomatic Relations with All Bilateral Partners

Department of Foreign Affairs has completed a comprehensive list of countries accredited to Liberia reflecting residence and non-residence, consulates, etc and also, the list of all our missions with concurrent accreditation in order to identify gaps for engagement where necessary, noting the political and economic power.

Finalization of the Foreign Service Manual

To ensure better standard and regulation, a predictable system as well as to improve the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the Foreign Service, and to have a transparent and expected "Outcome for Foreign Service Officers Conduct", a committee comprising the Policy Advisory Council was set up to review, assess, and submit a final draft of the Foreign Service Manual to the senior staff for validation.

Foreign Service Assessment, Evaluation and Promotion

In keeping with the Ministry's plan to transform Liberia Foreign Service into a professional and responsive institution and professionalize the Foreign Service for effective delivery and optimize productivity, the Ministry has developed a clear, transparent and predictable "Evaluation Plan" in concert with Administration that sets clear benchmarks and predictable outcomes for promotion in the Foreign Service. Successive to this initiative, Heads of Mission were apprised of the foregoing through a circular, which

was transmitted with the appended staff daily deliverable forms and evaluation analyses chart to aid in the process of appraising the staff's daily performances.

Diaspora Engagements Program

In an effort to strengthen engagements with the Liberian diaspora the Department of Foreign Affairs has instructed all of the Foreign Missions to create a diaspora platform at the Mission in order to engage constructively with Liberians in the diaspora.

The Foreign Missions were also requested to include in their activities/programs a diaspora relation initiative. A mapping exercise which calls for registration of all Liberian organizations/associations in the diaspora is also on-going.

The Ministry has also been collaborating with the Diaspora Unit at Ministry of State Without Portfolio in engaging Liberians in the Diaspora. The Ministry has provided assistance in the recruitment of the various staff at the Diaspora Unit and is currently working with the Unit to redesign and implement the Liberian diaspora program.

Establishment of the Diplomatic Lounge at RIA

In keeping with the Vienna Convention of 1961 on Diplomatic Relations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in concert with relevant Government stakeholders has embarked on an initiative to establish a Diplomatic Lounge at the RIA to address the perennial challenges faced by diplomats while traveling or arriving into Liberia due to the lack of necessary facilities for the provision of courtesies for diplomats. Several assessments have been carried out and meetings held with stakeholders to identify an existing facility that could be refurbished or to identify a space for the construction of a diplomatic lounge.

To date, the Ministry, through the Liberia Airport Authority at the Roberts International Airport, has identified a facility there. The Ministry of Public Works and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Civil Works Consultant have completed the architectural/technical work (drawings and costing) for the lounge. The Ministry has also secured funding for the renovation/construction of the lounge through the Chinese Government.

Enhancement of Diplomatic Representation

Liberian Representation Abroad

In fulfillment of its policy to deepen existing bilateral partnership and reposition Liberia to extend its diplomatic and consular spheres, the period under review witnessed the appointment of Dr. Brahim Kaba as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Liberia to Saudi Arabia as a diplomatic détente unfolded following the closure of Liberia's Embassy resulting from the disparaging behavior of diplomatic staff during the 1990s and early 2000.

Within the context of strategic expansion, the Ministry's core priorities for the next fiscal year calls for the establishment of new diplomatic missions in South Korea, India, Sweden and Turkey.

H.E. Mr. Jarjar M. Kamara was also appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Liberia to the Republic of Sierra Leone and H.E Mr. Andrew W. Kronyanh as Ambassador-Designate. Also, with the approval of the President, four qualified employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were appointed into Liberia Foreign Service in China, Belgium, France, and the United States of America.

They are Mr. Rudolph E. Sherman, Jr., Deputy Consul-General, Consulate-General of Liberia in New York, USA, promoted to Consul-General; Mr. Moses Barclay, Protocol Officer at Home Office, appointed 2nd Secretary, Vice Consul in Beijing, People's Republic of China; Mr. Francis Grant, appointed 1st Secretary/Consul in Paris, France; and Mr. Prince Maxwell, Protocol Officer, Executive Mansion, appointed 2nd Secretary/Protocol Affairs, Brussels, Belgium.

Meanwhile, in Government's quest to strategically explore new frontiers to expand bilateral relations which ultimately will yield political and economic returns to the people of Liberia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has undertaken an assessment trip to Brazil for the opening of what will be Liberia's first diplomatic mission in South America, which will eventually become the hub for representation of the country in that region.

Foreign Diplomatic Missions in Liberia

Liberia continues to maintain regular contacts with the diplomatic missions, including the Consular Corps and International Organizations accredited to the country. These contacts have been most cordial and that the spirits of friendship and solidarity have dominated Government's official and special interests.

Consequently, the following Ambassadors - the Russian Federation, Republic of Turkey, Swiss Confederation, United Kingdom, Republic of Austria, Republic of Italy, Republic of Ireland, Kingdom of Sweden, Republic of Indonesia, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of Colombia, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Korea, and Head of Delegation of the European Union, the State of Israel, the Federation of Mexico, the State of Kuwait, the Islamic Republic of Sudan - have presented Letters of Credence to the President of the Republic of Liberia, thus ensuring the maintenance of the friendly relations existing between their respective governments and Liberia.

REGIONAL BUREAUS

a) Bureau of African and Asian Affairs

The Bureau of African and Asian Affairs is the largest Bureau with the biggest responsibility at the Ministry. The Bureau coordinates the political affairs, diplomatic relations and bilateral cooperation between Liberia and all African, Asian and Pacific states.

The Bureau of Afro-Asian Affairs also coordinates Liberia's involvement with, and participation in international organizations including the Mano River Union (MRU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the African Union (AU). This part of the Bureau's mandate is coordinated with the Bureau of International Organizations at the Ministry.

It is headed by Assistant Minister for Afro-Asian Affairs, Ms. Rosetta N. Jackollie. Members of her professional, technical and administrative staff include:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Mr. T. Emmanuel Dingay | Desk Officer, Eastern and North Africa Affairs |
| 2. Mr. James Z. Holmes | Desk Officer, African Union and CENSAD Affairs |
| 3. Mr. Moibah K. Johnson | Desk Officer, Asian Affairs including China |
| 4. Mrs. Musu R. Massaquoi | Desk Officer, Central and Southern African Affairs |
| 5. Mr. Korboi G. Daniels | Desk Officer, Middle East and Pacific Affairs |
| 6. Mr. Emmanuel Dao Kamara | Desk Officer, West Africa Affairs including ECOWAS and MRU |
| 7. Mrs. Everia Massah Tarr | Technical Administrative Assistant, Head of the Bureau's Secretariat |
| 8. Mrs. Esther William Kporgba | Research Analyst, Middle East and Pacific Desk |
| 9. Mr. Bokai Dorley | Research Analyst, Asian Desk |
| 10. Mr. Mark S. Dehmin | Research Analyst, Asian Desk |
| 11. Mr. Sylvester Nyanti | Research Analyst, West African Desk |
| 12. Mr. Dixon T. Gbajolo | Research Analyst, West African Desk |
| 13. Mr. Joseph Akoi | Research Analyst, Central and Southern African Desk |
| 14. Mr. Morris Kanneh | Translator, East and Northern Africa Desk |
| 15. Mr. Octavius Varney | Filing Clerk, Bureau's Secretariat |
| 16. Mr. Edwin K. Luamba | Recorder/Comm. Assistant, Bureau's Secretariat |
| 17. Mr. Sylvester Julius | Chauffeur/Driver, Office of the Assistant Minister |

RELATIONS WITH AFRICA

During the reporting period, the Bureau of African and Asian Affairs, reports that Liberia continues to value the cordial bilateral relations with all African countries; while maintains embassies in the capitals of Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and South Africa. Liberia continues to hold its membership to the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Mano River Union (MRU), the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD); while it has participated in conferences and meetings of sub-regional and regional organizations in the region.

RELATIONS WITH ASIA

Liberia continues to maintain harmonious relations with all countries in Asia. It currently operates two embassies in Asia – Beijing, People's Republic of China (PRC) and Tokyo, Japan, respectively.

Liberia-China Relations

During the period under review, the Government of Liberia further enhanced its bilateral and diplomatic cooperation with the PRC. The Government of the PRC provided US\$320,000 for the construction of a diplomatic lounge at the Roberts International Airport. The PRC also donated 16 protocol vehicles, including spare parts and accessories as well as an increment in the number of bilateral scholarships to Liberia from 21 to 40.

Liberia – India Relations

Liberia relations with India continues to be mutually beneficial for both countries and peoples. During the period, India continued to maintain a police unit to assist the security operation in Liberia through the UN Mission in Liberia.

In an effort to buttress the fight against the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in the sub-region, the Association of Indian Community in Liberia donated an assortment of anti-Ebola related items worth over US\$200,000.

The Indian Government, for its part, contributed US\$12 million to the United Nations to help fight the deadly Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) approved eight slots for graduate and post graduate studies for Liberian students for the academic year 2014/2015. Currently, two Liberians are benefitting from training opportunities in various courses under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Program (ITEC).

In an effort to boost the capacity of the National Transit Authority (NTA), the Government of India donated 14 Leyland Askor Buses to the Government of Liberia during the period under review.

Liberia – Japan Relations

The Government of Japan also donated seven ambulances valued at US\$400,159 as additional support to the fight against the Ebola Virus Disease. The seven ambulances arrived in Liberia on Thursday, October 30, 2015. This followed an earlier donation by the Government and people of Japan of assorted medical items. In the same vein, Japan previously committed US\$1.5 million to the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the IFRC to the fight against Ebola in affected countries in Africa.

RELATIONS WITH THE MIDDLE EAST & PACIFIC REGIONS

During the year under review, Liberia continues to operate three embassies in the Middle East: Doha, Kuwait City, and Riyadh, respectively.

Liberia – Qatar Relations

The Republic of Liberia and the State of Qatar officially established diplomatic relations in May 2009. Following this, the Government of Liberia opened a resident Embassy at an Ambassadorial level in June 2011. The State of Qatar reciprocated by opening its Embassy near Monrovia. On 15 November 2012, the Qatari Government appointed Mr. Abdallah Bin Mohamed El-Yami, Third Secretary, to open the Embassy of the State of Qatar in Monrovia and serve as Charge d'Affaires a.i, pending the appointment of an Ambassador. During the period under review, the State of Qatar provided the Government of Liberia seven (7) ambulances.

A Qatari delegation visited Liberia from 14-15 October 2015 to explore the possibility of investing in Liberia with the view of enhancing bilateral cooperation between the two countries and peoples. The delegation had the opportunity to meet with some institutions such as the Ministries of Lands, Mines & Energy, Public Works, Finance and the National Investment Commission (NIC).

In April 2012, the Government of the State of Qatar proposed several agreements to the Government of Liberia for consideration. These proposed agreements include Mining Agreement, the Investment Protection Agreement, the Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement, the Labor Agreement, and the Air Service Agreement. The Government of Liberia has reacted positively to the proposed Mining Agreement. The rest of the proposed agreements are still with the relevant line ministries and agencies for review and comments.

The State of Qatar has emphasized that in the absence of finalizing the proposed agreements, the country would not easily invest in Liberia. It is therefore important for the relevant line ministries and agencies to review and comment on the proposed agreements so that both governments can conclude and sign same in order to promote cordial friendship and bilateral cooperation mutually beneficial to their peoples.

Meanwhile, the State of Qatar contributed US\$10,863.37 through the Liberia Red Cross for the fight against the deadly Ebola virus.

Liberia – Kuwait Relations

Liberia and Kuwait have had a strong history of cooperation. In the 1970s Liberia benefited a loan from the Kuwaiti Fund for the rehabilitation of roads.

The Government of Liberia officially opened her resident Embassy at the Ambassadorial level in June 2010. Since then, the Embassy remains operational. The Government of Kuwait has paid for rental of the Embassy for 5 years, and has also provided vehicles for the operation of the diplomatic staff.

The Government of Kuwait has funded the assessment for the full rehabilitation and pavement of the road leading from Bong County to Lofa County.

The State of Kuwait committed the amount US\$5 million through the World Health Organization (WHO) towards the fight against the deadly Ebola virus disease.

b) Bureau of European Affairs

The Bureau of European Affairs constitutes a vital component of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is the responsibility of the Bureau to supervise and conduct foreign relations with countries within its domain. It prepares briefing notes, memorandum of conversation, congratulatory and condolence messages and conducts research as may be deemed necessary.

The Bureau also serves in the capacity as liaison between the European Embassies/Consulates near Monrovia and the Liberian Government as well as coordinates diplomatic relations between Liberia and the countries of Europe, including regional organizations such as the European Union.

In pursuant of its objectives, the Bureau studies trends in Liberia's relations with European countries including European Union and recommends measures to ensure sustenance of cordial and mutually beneficial relations in all its facets. The head of the bureau periodically briefs the Minister of Foreign Affairs on development within Europe.

The Bureau of European Affairs is headed by Assistant Minister, Hon. Israel C. Davies, and consists of ten staff members, with their names and positions mentioned below:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Martin Scott-Tabi	Senior Desk Officer
Emmanuel B. Trueh	Desk Officer
Banjamin Y. Wehye	Desk Officer
Siah Hare	Desk Officer
Randolph Fairmore	Research Analyst
Robert Y. Banwon	Research assistant
Goliah M. Sherif	Research Assistant
Christiana D. Topey	Secretary
George W. Miller	Technical Assistant
Veronica M. Fahn	File Clerk

Liberia – European Union Relations

Liberia enjoys a cordial and mutually beneficial relation with the 28 member states of the European Union which includes: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

Relations with the Union are governed by the Lome Convention which was first ratified by 46 African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) countries in 1976. During the year under review, Liberia EU relations significantly improved with the European Commission (EU) announcing an extension of its aid to Liberia in the tune of £279 million approximately (US\$384.07 million) for the period of 2014-2020, under the 11th European Development Fund. As a result of the importance attached to this partnership by the EU, Liberia has benefited 100 percent budgetary support and has concluded agreements on fighting illegal timber exports from Liberia, as well as reforms on sector governance.

In April 28, 2015, the third EU-Liberia Political Dialogue was held. This Dialogue provides the platform for the exchange of views on vital issues of development cooperation between Liberia and the EU, as well as global and sectorial policies, including Governance, Security & Justice.

Liberia’s Mission in Europe

Liberia maintains embassies in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Belgium, and Italy. These embassies, due to their number, are charged with concurrent accreditations to enable the conduct of foreign policy objectives of the country.

They are:

Ambassador	Mission	Concurrent Accreditations
Ambassador Rudolf Von Ballmoos*	London, United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland	The Sovereign Military Order of Malta, the Republic of Ireland and the Holy Sea (Vatican)

Ambassador C. William Allen	Paris, France, Permanent Delegate to UNESCO	Greece, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal & Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office & other International Organizations at Geneva, Switzerland
Ambassador Ethel Davis	Berlin, Germany	Finland, Austria, Sweden, Norway & Denmark and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office and other Int'l Organizations at Vienna, Austria
Andrew W. Kronyahn Ambassador-Designate	Rome, Italy	Permanent Representative to FAO, IFAD & WFP
Ambassador Isaac Nyenabo	Brussels, Belgium	European Union and Benelux countries, Belgium, Luxemburg and Netherlands
Mr. Paul W. Tate Charge d'Affairs	Switzerland	

**H.E. Rudolf Precious von Ballmoos passed away on Thursday, December 17, 2015.*

Changes in Liberian Missions near European Capitals

H.E. Dr. Mohammed S. Sheriff was recalled from the Liberian Mission in Italy as Ad Hoc Ambassador and replaced by H.E. Mr. Andrew W. Kronyahn Ambassador-Designate and will take up assignment pending his confirmation by the Liberian Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Israel C. Davies was also appointed Minister Counselor to Belgium and is yet to take up his assignment.

Major European Highlights - January – December 2015

January 14, 2015 - President Giorgio Napolitano of Italy handed in his resignation as head of state leaving Prime Minister Matteo Renzi with the politically delicate task of finding a successor.

January 31, 2015 - Sergio Matterella, a lawyer, politician and Member of Parliament was elected as Italy new president from parliament. He was sworn in office on February 3, 2015.

March 3, 2015, - Liberia and European Union sign €279 million euro for development package under the European Union National Indicative Program (NIP) for EU 11TH development cooperation in Liberia. The cooperation will address key priority areas essential to growth and recovery covering 2014-2020. The event took place on the sideline of the high-level international conference on Ebola in Brussels, Belgium.

April 11, 2015 – High-level German delegations headed by Dr. Gerd Muller, Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development including the Federal Minister of Health, Mr. Hermann Groehe and two members of the German Parliament, Mr. Helmut Heidderich and Mrs. Dagmar Woehrl visited Liberia. The delegation's visit was to assess the impact of contributions made by Germany during the Ebola crisis as well as hold discussions on support for Liberia's Post-Ebola National Recovery Plan.

May 6, 2015, Liberia Ambassador to European Union Isaac W. Nyenabo presented his Letters of Credence to the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk at the presidential salon at the Justus Lipsius Building. During their discussion Mr. Tusk said the EU remains committed to supporting Liberia's post-Ebola Recovery and Reconstruction Program and promise to visit Liberia. Meanwhile, Ambassador Nyenabo also presented his Letters of Credence to His Majesty, King Philippe of the Kingdom of Belgium.

June 7-8, 2015, President Sirleaf attended the 41st G7 Summit in Schloss Elman, Germany. The focus of discussion centered around the Global Economy, Foreign, Security and Development Policy, the UN conferences held in 2015 as well as the post-2015 development agenda.

June 8, 2015, G7 Summit commits to support Ebola affected countries over the next five years after their economies were badly affected by Ebola virus disease.

July 6, 2015, Ms. Lilanne Ploumen, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation led a high level Netherlands trade delegation mission to Liberia including representatives of at least 30 Dutch companies.

July 6, 2015, the Government of Liberia proposed and subsequently forwarded a draft cooperation agreement to be consummated with the Government of Italy.

Sept. 15, 2015, H.E. Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf departed the country for Berlin, Germany to participate in series of meetings with German Chancellor Mrs. Angela Merkel and other women leader that focus on improvement in health system.

Sept 21, 2015, European Union/UNDP and National Election Commission signed a MOU to help fund elections activities between now and the 2017 elections. EU to provide 10 million euro/UNDP to provide 1 million.

Sept. 22, 2015, The Royal Norwegian Embassy near Accra informed that the Diplomatic Envoy Mr. Fred Rasmussen ended his tour of duty in Liberia in June 2015.

Oct. 2, 2015, Liberia and Georgia signed the following Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), aimed at fostering cooperation on education, science, culture, sport and the economy; and holding consultations on area of political, bilateral, regional and global cooperation as well as to seek the common interest of both countries at international organizations. The MOU will be in force for a period of five years subject to renewal.

Oct. 19, 2015, H.E. Ms. Lena Nordström, Ambassador of Sweden presented her Letters of Credence to H.E. Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

c) Bureau of American Affairs

The Bureau of American Affairs is an integral part and one of the original bureaus of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Bureau coordinates the political, diplomatic relations and bilateral cooperation between Liberia and countries of the American Region – North, Central, South (Latin) America and the

Caribbean Island States. The bilateral cooperation mandate of the bureau is largely coordinated with the Bureau of International Cooperation and Economic Affairs at the Ministry.

The Bureau of American Affairs is headed by Assistant Minister, Hon. Sie-Teba Neufville, and consists of seven staff members, with their names and positions mentioned below:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Mr. Eric N. Collins | Desk Officer |
| 2. Mr. Lahai A. Kiazolu | Desk Officer |
| 3. Mr. George W. Zogbaye | Research Officer |
| 4. Mr. Nicklaus Lockett | Research Analyst |
| 5. Ms. Yassah Momolu James | Research Analyst |
| 6. Ms. Elizabeth Wilson | Secretary |
| 7. Ms. Beatrice Jallah | File Clerk |

Liberia has just one functional diplomatic mission – Washington, D.C. – in this region; whereas, the American Region has accredited nine (9) functional missions in Liberia, three of which are resident.

Liberia-U.S. Relations

Liberia's relations with the United States of America takes place at different levels, either at its Embassy in Washington, D.C, or at the U.S. Embassy near Monrovia. However, both Governments still interact at the level of international organizations on a range of multilateral issues.

During the reporting period, both the Liberian and the U.S. Governments interacted as follows:

1. In February, President Obama hosted President Sirleaf in Washington, D.C, where she had gone to pay tribute to the U.S. Government and people for standing with Liberia and leading international efforts to contain and eradicate the deadly Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), and called for the American people's support for Liberia's post Ebola recovery.
2. In May, President Sirleaf hosted former U.S. President Bill Clinton and daughter Chelsea, who came to Monrovia to re-ignite hope that Liberia was not alone in its difficult times and stressed the necessity to support Liberia's post-Ebola recovery plan and assist President Sirleaf rebuild the health care delivery system, specifically in training more health care workers just in case of future outbreak.
3. In June, President Sirleaf held a meeting with the U.S. delegation in Johannesburg, South Africa, led by Mrs. Linda Thomas Greenfield, U.S. Assistant Secretary of States for African Affairs, on the margins of the 25th Ordinary Summit of the African Union (AU). Their discussions centered on continental, including post-Ebola recovery, and global issues.
4. Other engagements included the decommissioning ceremony of the Monrovia Medical Unit in April; the swearing in of five returning Peace Corps Response Volunteers of the total of 108 Peace Corps evacuated in August at the height of the EVD; the dedication of the new headquarters of Peace Corps; the meeting of President Sirleaf and the U.S. Surgeon General, Vice Admiral Dr. Vivek Murthy, and delegation; and the conferral of the Global Champion Award

for Courage, Leadership, Integrity and Wisdom on President Sirleaf by the International Medical Corps in New York, USA.

5. Early this October, both governments signed in Washington, D.C. the Millennium Challenge Cooperation Grant Agreement worth US\$256.7 million for use on energy and roads infrastructure

Missions

Missions with which Liberia has rewarding bilateral relations include, but not limited to:

No.	Country	Envoy	Residence
1.	Argentina	HE Maria Susana Pataro	Abuja, Nigeria
2.	Brazil	HE Andre de Santos	Monrovia, Liberia
3.	Canada	HE Patricia McCullage (Ambassador-Designate)	Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
4.	Colombia	HE Claudia Turbay Quintero	Accra, Ghana
5.	Cuba	Mr. Yordenis despaigne Vera (Charge d'Affaires, a.i.)	Monrovia, Liberia
6.	Mexico	Mrs. Maria de los Angeles Arriola Acquirre	Abuja, Nigeria
7.	Trinidad & Tobago	HE Nyhuma Mentuhoteh Obika	Abuja, Nigeria
8.	USA	HE Deborah R. Malac	Monrovia, Liberia
9.	Venezuela	HE Enrique Fernando Arrundell James	Abuja, Nigeria

Note: Except for congratulatory messages on their national days as is with the others, we rarely interacted with, nor is there any accreditation to Liberia from Dominican Republic & Haiti.

2. DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

The Department of Administration provides managerial and administrative support to our home office as well as Liberian embassies and consulates around the world. The program objectives of the Department are the enhancement of productivity through human resource capacity, financial probity, and to render other administrative services to the Ministry. The Ministry through the Department of Administration gives subsidy to two important institutions: The Angie Brooks International Center and the Foreign Service Institute. The Ministry through Administration has embarked on the renovation, maintenance and refurbishing of Liberia properties abroad to meet acceptable international standards and also the acquisition of properties.

The Department of Administration is headed by Deputy Minister, Dr. Wede Elliot Brownell and assisted by Assistant Minister Elizabeth Johnson Sirleaf with seven divisions and three units – Personnel, Finance, General Services Office, Maintenance and Technical Services, Clinic and Medical Services, Travel, Diplomatic Pouch, Internal Security and Information, Communication and Technology.

a) Division of Personnel

The complete workforce of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs can be classified into two major categories: Home Office and Foreign Service Personnel, falling within four major categories: Presidential Appointees,

Civil Servants, Foreign Service Officers and Contractors. The Home Office operates five major departments including the Office of the Minister, six bureau, eleven divisions, and three units/sections.

At the end of December 2015, there were a total of 708 employees; 432 at Home Office while 276 are at our Foreign Missions. Out of the 432 employees at the Home Office, 301 are on payroll while 131 are not yet placed on the Civil Service Agency payroll. There are also two contractors rendering service to the Ministry.

During the reporting period, over 35 employees benefited from scholarships (long and short term programs, local and foreign) as shown in the chart below:

A. Short Term Foreign Training Beneficiaries

No.	NAME	BUREAU	DATES	COURSE	VENUE
1	Charlotte K. B. Sorrie	Policy Advisory Council	Aug. 10-Sept. 18, 2015	Empowerment of Women through Entrepreneurship Development	India
2	Jestina N. K Redd	Division of Passport & Visas	Sept. 7- Oct. 30, 2015	Proficiency in Business Communication & Life Skills including Essential Internet Skills	India
3	Chupee Bemah	Int'l Cooperation	Sept. 1-21, 2015	Economic & Trade Zone Construction	China
4	Monie Hooke Momolu	Int'l Cooperation	Sept. 1-22, 2015	China's Development Experience for African Countries	China
5	Musu A. Randolph	Afro-Asian	Sept. 4-24, 2015	Economic Diplomacy	China
6	E. Bruce Benson	Maintenance & Technical	Aug. 14 – Oct. 12, 2015	Elevator Maintenance & Operations	China
7	Victoria Andrews	Maintenance & Technical	Aug. 14 – Oct. 12, 2015	Elevator Maintenance & Operations	China
8	Prince Quewon	Maintenance & Technical	Aug. 14 – Oct. 12, 2015	Elevator Maintenance & Operations	China
9	Jacob Bull	Maintenance & Technical	Aug. 14 – Oct. 12, 2015	Elevator Maintenance & Operations	China
10	Dave B. Kontoe	Int'l Cooperation	Sept. 4-24, 2015	Economic Diplomacy	China
11	Anthony C. Kpalleh	Minister's office	Nov. 21- Dec. 19, 2015	Policy development and management	South Africa
12	Pawala Jaryan	Protocol	Nov. 21- Dec. 19, 2015	Policy Development and Management	South Africa
13	Yassah Momolu James	DAM Office	Oct. 6 – Nov. 3, 2015	Public Health Seminar on Disease Prevention & Control	China

B. Long Term Foreign Scholarship Beneficiaries

NO.	NAME	POSITION	DEGREE	SPECIALIZATION	DURATION	TYPE OF SCHOLARSHIP	COUNTRY
1.	Aliou Swaray	Desk Officer	Masters	International Relations	2013-2015	Bilateral	China
2.	Benjamin Y. Wehye	Desk Officer	Masters	Public Sector Management	2013-2015	Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)	Ghana
3.	Sahr Felle	Desk Officer	Masters	International Law	2013-2015	Ambassadorial	China
4.	James Kannehson	Audit Technician	Masters	Human Resource Management	2013-2015	Bilateral	China
5.	Elchico Fawundu	Research Analyst	Masters	Environmental Science	2013-Present	Bilateral	China
6.	Renaissa Summon	Desk Officer	Masters	International Relations	2013-Present	Bilateral	Japan
7.	Boima Gobah	Research Analyst	Masters	Policy Management	2014-2015	Bilateral	China
8.	Jester Saydenuh	Financial Analyst	Masters	Public Sector Management	2014-2015	Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)	Ghana
9.	Emmanuel Tarblah	Nurse	Masters	Medicine	2014-Present	Bilateral	Georgia
10.	Ned Cisco	System Administrator	Masters	Computer Science	2014-Present	Bilateral	China
11.	Amjad Nyei	Research Assistant	Masters	International Relations	2014-Present	Bilateral	China
12.	Joe Koryon	Principal Research Analyst	Masters	Non-Proliferation & Terrorism	2014-Present	Monterey Institute of International Studies	United States of America
13.	Martin Mentar	Research Assistant	Masters	Banking & Finance	2015	Bilateral	China
14.	Reuben Sirleaf	Legal Counsellor	Masters	Law	2015	Bilateral	United States of America
15.	Nehker Gaye	Desk Officer	Masters	International Business	2015	Bilateral	China
16.	Alphonso Wilson	IT Technician	Diploma		2014-2016	International Studies	Ghana

C. Beneficiaries of Local Scholarships

No.	NAME	BUREAU/OFFICE	PROGRAM	INSTITUTION
1	Josiah Domah	Financial Affairs	Master's Program	Cuttington University
2	Emmanuel Dao	Afro-Asian	Master's Program	University of Liberia
3	Yassah M. James	DMA's Office	Master's Program	Cuttington University
4	Emma Kanneh	Travel Unit	Master's Program	Cuttington University
5	Laytee Payekar	AMA's Office	Master's Program	University of Liberia
6	David Akoi	Public Affairs	Master's Program	Cuttington University
7	Goliah Sheriff	European Affairs	Master's Program	University of Liberia
8	Morris Kollie	Archives	Under graduate	AMEU
9	Thomas Wilson	Personnel	Under graduate	AMEU
10	Mary Matthews	Minister's Office	Under graduate	AMEU
11	Gertrude Fahnbulleh	Int'l Organization	Under graduate	AMEU
12	Bathsheba Howelley	Personnel	Diploma Program	Blue Crest University
13	Wannie Bourhadir	Minister's Office	Master's Program	Cuttington University

Reform Strategy

The Government of Liberia launched its Civil Service Reform Strategy in 2008 which is geared toward sectorial transformation.

The Government in consultation with its key development partners has conceptualized and formulated a Public Sector Modernization Project (PSMP) aimed at restructuring and right sizing, pay and pension reform, managing human resources, improving service delivery, developing leadership, and gender equity in the Civil Service. This project is designed to continue with the implementation of the Civil Service Reform strategy.

The Ministry is working with the Tripartite Working Group: Civil Service Agency, Governance Commission and the Liberia Institute for Public Administration (CSA, GC, LIPA) to implement several reform activities; ranging from pay and pension reform, managing human resources, improving service delivery, developing leadership and promoting gender equity. The mandate and function of the Ministry is under review by the Governance Commission.

The assignment of the current fleet of the Ministry is indicated below:

No.	Assigned To	Make	Serial Number	Plate #	Color	Purchase year	Status
1	Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs	Ford Explorer	1FM5K80DGC88609	RL-3251	Black	2014	Good
2	Deputy Minister/Adm.	Toyota Fortuner	MHFYx59G788019388	RL-1367	Black	2011	Good

3	Chief of Protocol	Ford Explorer	1FM5K8D86FGB43738	O-38	Black	2015	Good
4	Deputy Minister/ICEI	Toyota Fortuner	MHFYx59Gx88021152	RL-1359	Black	2011	Good
5	Minister Office	Nissan/Hardby	29338	RL-1396	White	2013	Good
6	Sr. Ambassador-At-Large	Renault Duster	VF1HSRC8N43668381	RL-1362	Blue	2010	Good
7	Ambassador-At-Large	Hyundai Tucson	KMHJT81BCCU581294	Guest 10	Black	2012	Good
8	Assist. Minister/American Aff.	Nissan/Quashqai	SINFAAJ10Z2618190	Guest 19	Purple	2013	Good
9	Assistant Minister/ICEI	Hyundai Tucson	KMHJT81BCCU531053	Guest 6	Gray	2012	Good
10	Assistant Minister/SA	Renault Duster	VF1HSRC8N45569523	RL-1370	Black	2011	Down
11	Assistant Minister/Foreign Affairs	Renault Duster	VF1HSRC8N45569515	RL-1369	Black	2011	Down
12	Assistant Minister/IO	Renault Duster	VF1HSRC8N45569500	RL-1373	Blue	2011	Down
13	General Services Officer	Hyundai Santife	KMHS818CCU809845	RL-1381	Black	2012	Good
14	Assistant Minister/EA	Renault Duster	VF1HSRC8N45569519	RL-1385	Comet Gray	2011	Down
15	Personnel	Renault Duster	VFLHSRCN43373491	RL-2132	Black	2011	Down
16	Assistant Minister/Legal	Renault Duster	VF1LSRC8N45569503	RL-1374	Gold	2011	Good
17	Procurement	Nissan Hardy	ADNCJUD22Z0014424	RL-1379	White	2012	Good
18	Passport	Nissan Almera	MDHBBAA47Z0004913	RL-2103	Black	2013	Good
19	FSI Staff	Renault	VF1 JSRFB449852930	RL-2153	White	2014	Good
20	Employees	Nissan Civilian	JN6BW12S5DZO24398	RL-1394	White	2013	Good
21	Employees	Nissan Civilian	JN6BW12S6DZO24409	RL-1388	White	2013	Good
22	Employees	Higer Bus	LKLS1BS50Fa.669808	LB-2020	White	2015	Good
23	Employees	Higer	LKL1SCS4BA578099	1378	White	2012	Down

Some employees have purchased their vehicles through the General Services Agency Fleet Program which has created a need for vehicles for their positions in the event that these employees are re-assigned.

b) Division of Finance

The Ministry's approved budget for this Fiscal Year 2015/2016 stands at US\$14,786,334.00 for its two statutory programs. Foreign Missions account for US\$4,313,389.00 which represent 29 percent of the total appropriation while US\$10,472,954.00 represent 71 percent to Home Office for the payment of staff

salary and operational expenses apportioned in the following categories of expenditure: Personnel Expenditure, US\$3,409,825.00; Goods and Services, US\$5,938,120.00; Capital Expenditure, US\$75,000.00; Grants, US\$300,000.00 and General Claims, US\$750,000.00. Residential property and office building rentals are paid from Home Office appropriation of US\$10,472,945.00.

As at December 31, 2015, the total allotment year to date was US\$7,036,389.67, total expenditure US\$6,176,752.00 while balance in allotment stood at US\$859,636.68; while balance appropriation stood at US\$7,749,944.3.

c) Division of General Services

A fleet of vehicles consisting of 12 sedans and four buses was donated by the Government of the People's Republic of China to the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to convey foreign dignitaries, Very Important Persons (VIPs) and other important guests on official visits to the Republic of Liberia.

The Ministry intended to allocate two vehicles (sedans) to the Executive Mansion Protocol, two to Roberts International Airport for high level protocol services; the remaining eight sedans and buses are to be used by the Foreign Ministry for guests and VIPs.

Foreign Missions Projects / Description of the Projects

1) Addis Ababa - Land Purchase

- Land purchase and renovation of Chancery and Residence is completed. The DMA and Ambassador Kofa travelled to Addis Ababa few months ago to conclude the land transfer arrangement.

Addis Ababa - Renovation Works and the Construction of Fence around the Perimeter of the Chancery Building

- Site visit including the preparation of the tender document is still pending. The technical team needs to visit the site to assess the property and prepare tender documents for the fence construction, renovation and the preparation of the architectural drawings for the proposed embassy complex.

2) Accra, Ghana – Renovation, Refurbishment and the Construction of the Ambassador's Residence

- The contract has been signed by all parties. Payment for the 1st phase in the amount of US\$150,437.66 has been made.
- Land for reciprocity with the Ghanaian Government has been purchased and awaiting exchange process by the two Governments.

3) New Rochelle, New York – Renovation, Refurbishment and the Interior Remodeling of the Ambassador's Residence.

- Phase one (1) of the project which is the exterior work is completed.
- Phase two (2): The bids for renovation/remodeling of the interior is in progress.

4) Stockholm, Sweden – Renovation and Refurbishment

- The Ministry's Civil Works consultant is preparing the tender documents after the site visit to be translated into Swedish to solicit cost proposal from contractors for the implementation of the project.

5) Conakry, Guinea – Renovation of Liberia's Ambassador Residence and the Construction of Chancery

- Two contractors provided bid documents for the renovation and reconstruction of the Ambassador's residence. The bid evaluation panel has been constituted to evaluate submitted bids; which is hoped to be completed by the end of February, and work to be completed by August 31, 2016.

6) Abidjan – Construction of Chancery

- The process is pending the President's approval for the relocation of the Chancery.

7) Freetown, Sierra Leone - Roof Replacement and General Repair Works

- Due diligence report completed and contract completed and signed. Work is expected to begin February 15 and to be completed by May 15, 2016.

8) London, United Kingdom – Chancery and Staff Residence Renovation

- Site visit including the preparation of the project's tender document is still pending;
- Painting of the Chancery is completed.

9) Abuja, Nigeria – Roof Repair or Replacement and the General Building Maintenance Works

Bids have been evaluated; deficiencies were responded to and awaiting evaluation by the Panel. Completion of bid evaluation process is expected to be completed by February 21, 2016.

d) Division of Maintenance and Technical Services

The Division of Maintenance and Technical Services is responsible to ensure that the Ministry maintain sanitary and conducive environment.

During the period under review, the Division performed its functions which include; installations, repairs, replacement of electrical wires, bulbs, sockets, breakers, Air condition parts and door locks as well as the maintenance of the rest rooms. A mini pilot project to keep the rest rooms in good sanitary condition was developed by the DMA which is still ongoing.

In order to maintain the cleanliness of the Ministry, a rotation plan has been developed and is being implemented. The Ministry Building is old therefore, it needs to be re-wired and major plumbing work is required.

e) Clinic and Medical Services

During the period under review, five hundred seventy one (571) employees from MFA and MoS visited the Clinic for consultations and treatment. The Clinic diagnosed and managed twenty five (25) different clinical cases; Malaria accounted for the highest at 198 cases followed by Hypertension at 93, common

cold 50, etc. The Clinic through Administration is providing basic first aid health services to employees of MFA and MoS respectively.

f) Travel Unit

The Travel Unit was established to ensure travel arrangements for senior and general staff travelling locally and abroad. The Unit also keeps record of staff travel and confirms retirement of all travels.

Below is a matrix summarizing staff travel and cost associated:

1	Number of staff travelled	163
2	Cost of Air tickets	US\$362,583.35
3	Cost of DSA	US\$426,783.75
4	Cost of incidental allowance	US\$16,925.00
	Total	US\$806,292.10

Monthly Travel

No.	Month of Travel	Number of persons
1	January	8
2	February	18
3	March	21
4	April	20
5	May	5
6	June	11
7	July	6
8	August	27
9	September	14
10	October	9
11	November	10
12	December	14
	Total	163

g) Diplomatic Pouch

Diplomatic Pouch Unit is responsible to keep Liberia diplomatic missions informed about national developments through registered mails, official letters, confidential letters, packages, parcel, pouch, etc. The Unit collects, receives and distributes official communications to and from diplomatic missions, NGOs, public corporations and other government institutions, consular etc. This Unit is responsible to mail presidential documents as well.

During the period under review, the unit received, dispatched mails as seen in the matrix below:

No.	Description	Quantity
1	Inter office mails received and posted through Postal Affairs	604
2	Mails received from the Office of the Chief of Protocol (Presidential) and sent to DHL	37
3	Mail received from DHL	121
4	Drop bag mails received and delivered	666
5	Registered mails collected from Postal Affairs	485

h) Division of Internal Security

The Internal Security Division is responsible for the protection of lives and properties. Currently, the Ministry building hosts the Presidency thereby making it imperative for safety and serious operation to be properly coordinated with assigned details of State security apparatus. Safety operation within the reporting period was considered as normal despite logistical challenges.

The Office of the Deputy Minister for Administration concluded discussions with the Liberia National Police and a MOU was signed to train security personnel of MFA by the Liberia National Police Training Academy.

i) Division of Information, Communication & Technology

The Division of Information Communications Technology (ICT) is responsible for managing and administering all ICT resources of the Ministry, and advice senior management of the procurement and use of ICT related services. Currently, the division has six (6) staff of which two (2) are presently out of the country undergoing training.

During the reporting period, the Division effectively managed ICT resources in the Ministry including efficient management of a 5MB of Fiber Optic Internet bandwidth (Internet Services), a routine repair and maintenance exercise of PC's, ensuring the safety and security of data contained on those PC's and the provision of other ICT related services as the need may arise.

The Division of ICT is committed to the provision of more effective and efficient ICT services; however, the need for regular training for ICT personnel to new trend of technology cannot be over emphasized. Also there is a need for regular changes in devices, equipment and tools.

3. DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

The Department of International Cooperation and Economic Integration monitors and coordinates all activities and programs relative to negotiating, formulating and implementing matters of cooperation to which the Government of Liberia is a party. The Department represents the Ministry at various meetings, conferences and programs on Economic Cooperation and Integration, advising the Minister of Foreign Affairs on the outcome of activities.

The Department identifies viable areas and projects for cooperation and withdrawals from existing cooperation arrangements based on the result of studies of such cooperation and advises the Minister accordingly.

The Department of International Cooperation and Economic Integration structurally oversees and supervises the activities of two technical bureaus; the Bureau of International Cooperation and Economic Integration and the Bureau of International Organizations.

Personnel

It is important to note that Deputy Minister Thomas Kaydor, Jr. was appointed by the President in December 2014 and confirmed by Senate in March 2015 as Head of the Department but was later dismissed in August 2015. Presently the Office of the Deputy Minister is not fully staffed.

The Department currently has eight staffers:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. E. Sahr F. Felle | Acting Senior Desk Officer |
| 2. Mr. Baccus M. Carr | Desk Officer/Coordinator – ECOWAS/MRU |
| 3. Mr. Alieu B. Swaray | Desk Officer |
| 4. Mr. Monie Hooke Momolu | Administrative Assistant |
| 5. Mr. Joseph M. Gbanyah | Research Analyst |
| 6. Ms. Esther K. Garbo | Research Assistant |
| 7. Mr. Francis R. Hoff | Office Assistant |
| 8. Mr. Bill Sarsih | Chauffeur |

Meanwhile, Ms. Esther Garbo was officially transferred from the Bureau of Afro/Asian Affairs to the Office of the Deputy Minister for International Cooperation and Economic Integration. However, during this reporting period, Mr. Augustine Nyanplu travelled to the United States of America and yet to return relative to his alleged involvement with the Departments' IECI Japan-funded project's account at the Afriland Bank.

Capacity Building & Training Attended By Staff

During the period under review, one staff (Mr. Momolu) from the Office of the Deputy Minister benefited from a short term program to study in the People's Republic of China (1 – 22 September). Mr. Swaray also completed his two years Masters program during this reporting (June 30th, 2015).

The Office of the Deputy Minister has deemed it necessary to tap into the Liberia – Japanese Counterpart Fund, to improve its institutional and human resource capacity through a comprehensive computer training and augmenting of all the staff of the Bureau of International Organization Affairs and the Bureau of International Economic Cooperation Affairs that constitutes the Department of IECI. Accordingly, the office refurbished and equipped the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Resource Center so as to conduct a three-month comprehensive computer training for Department staff by November 2015.

Conferences, Meetings, Events

Facilitated and coordinated the first Inter-Ministerial Preparatory Meeting relative to the visit of the Netherlands Trade Mission to Liberia from 6 – 8 July 2015. About 21 government ministries and agencies, including private sector stakeholders participated in the meeting. The meeting was held in the Conference Room of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Thursday, 11 June 2015.

Successfully facilitated and coordinated the second Inter-Ministerial Preparatory Meeting relative to the visit of the Netherlands Trade Mission to Liberia from 6 – 8 July 2015. About 21 Government Ministries and Agencies, including private sector stakeholders participated in the meeting. The meeting was held in the Conference room of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Thursday, 23 June 2015. The major focus of the meeting was to review GOL's preparatory works and harmonize the various itineraries pertaining to the Dutch visit.

Successfully prepared and submitted copy of the draft Briefing Notes for the President as Her Excellency prepared to meet with the Netherlands' Trade and Economic Mission in Monrovia on 6 July 2015.

Successfully coordinated the visit of a delegation from the Embassy of Japan in Accra and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The visit, which took place on 17 June 2015, marked the recommencement of Japan-funded projects in Liberia. The delegation was led by His Excellency Mr. Kaoru Yoshimura, Ambassador of Japan to Liberia.

Successfully collaborated with the Bureaus of Protocol and Public Affairs for the handover ceremony of 12 protocol vehicles donated to the Government by the Government of the People's Republic of China. The ceremony took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday, 3 June 2015.

Successfully coordinated and presided over the technical committee meeting of the Japanese Government Counterpart Value Fund in the conference room of the Foreign Ministry on Thursday, 4 June 2015.

Successfully represented the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at events marking World Environmental Day, held at the Paynesville City Hall on 5 June 2015. The program was held under the auspices of the Policy Council, Board of Directors and the Management of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in collaboration with the Environmental Theme Group of Liberia.

Successfully coordinated and facilitated the visit of two (2) representatives from World Readers International to Liberia from 9-12 June 2015.

Successfully facilitated and coordinated the visit of H.E. Mr. Kaoru Yoshimura and delegation from the Embassy of Japan near Accra to Liberia from 18-21 May 2015. The Ambassador's visit culminated into the signing of the Exchange of Notes between the Government of Liberia and the Government of Japan for petroleum aid under the Non-Project Grant Aid (NPGA) in the amount of ¥ 5,000,000 million (Japanese Yen). Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs B. Elias Shoniyin signed for Liberia while Ambassador Kaoru Yoshimura signed for Japan. Ambassador Yoshimura also turned over to Government the 5th round of food aid in the tune of 8,000 metric tonnes of rice.

Successfully coordinated two preparatory meetings of the Liberia's technical team of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) on 20th and 21st May 2015. The intent of the technical team's session was to review the status of projects submitted by Government under FOCAC ahead of the visit of China's special envoy on FOCAC, Ambassador Zhou Yuxiao to Liberia on 22 May 2015. The two-day meeting identified a new batch of development projects for grant/loan financing under FOCAC.

Successfully facilitated and coordinated the visit of H.E. Mr. Zhou Yuxiao, China's special envoy of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and former Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Liberia. Ambassador Yuxiao, during his brief stay in Monrovia, paid a courtesy call on Her Excellency Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia and held mutual discussions with relevant Government officials on a wide-range of issues bordering on bilateral relations, regional and global affairs.

Collaborated with the ECOWAS Office in Liberia for the successful observance of the ECOWAS 40th Anniversary celebration in Liberia.

Successfully facilitated and coordinated the review of the draft Agreement between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of the Republic of Liberia, regarding financial cooperation on the following:

- The Reintegration and Recovery Program - Ebola support - €5,000,000 (Euros).
- The West African Power Pool (WAPP) – Transmission Line Cote d'Ivoire-Liberia-Sierra Leone-Guinea (CLSG) II - €10,000,000 (Euros).
- The Mount Coffee hydropower Plant – Rehabilitation in the context of the West African Power Pool (WAPP) II - €10,000,000 (Euros).

The draft Agreement has been forwarded to MFA Legal Department and the Ministry of Finance and development planning for their expert, advisory opinion/advice.

Continuation of the re-documentation of bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements. The matrix is being regularly updated to integrate the inputs of senior management.

Successfully completed Briefing Notes on a courtesy call to the Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs by H. E. Dr. Kamil Kayode Kamaludden, Resident Representative, UNDP, held on Monday, 12 February 2015, at 2:00 p.m., at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Successfully completed briefing notes and talking points for Minister Ngafuan on the occasion of the visit to Liberia of Mrs. Helen Clark, Under Secretary-General and Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), on February 13, 2015.

Successfully completed two Briefing Notes on the current status of ECOWAS and Mano River Union affairs.

Successfully participated in the review of the performance contract between Madam President and the Minister of Foreign Affairs for 2015-2016.

Successfully organized inter-ministerial/agency preparatory meeting, preliminary to the holding of the second Liberia-Morocco Joint Commission Meeting in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco.

Successfully represented the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at ceremonies marking the unveiling of 8,000 metric tons of rice provided by the Government of Japan as a program aid to the Government and people of Liberia. The event took place on Monday, 23 March 2015 at the Freeport of Monrovia.

Successfully represented the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Liberia-Egypt Bilateral Scholarship meeting, held at the Egyptian Embassy in Sinkor. The meeting was held on Tuesday, 24 March 2015, and basically focused on the utilization of the 14 undergraduate scholarships being offered to Government of Liberia for the academic year 2015/2016.

Successfully represented the Ministry at ceremonies marking the turning over of medical supplies valued at US\$1.5 million donated to Government by the African-Caribbean Business Enterprise (ABE). The event took place on Monday, 23 March 2015 at the edifice of the Ministry of Health in Congo Town.

Successfully participated in the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF-SPIU) National Steering Committee meeting, held at the Commerce Ministry on Tuesday, 24 March 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to brief the National Steering Committee on progress made by the Special Project Implementation Unit (SPIU), introduce the new project coordinator, and review the approved Tier 1, Phase 2 proposal for 2015.

Successfully participated in a meeting with the new Colombian Ambassador to Liberia with residence in Accra, Mrs. Claudia Turbay Quintero to identify critical areas for cooperation between Liberia and Colombia. A draft cooperation agreement is being crafted by IC and Legal for onward transmission to the Government of Colombia on 26 March 2015.

Successfully facilitated and coordinated the visit of H.E. Mr. Kaoru Yoshimura, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Liberia and delegation.

Successfully participated in a meeting held between Min. Ngafuan and the Japanese Ambassador accredited to Liberia together with a JICA delegation. A side-line meeting was held thereafter between the Department and Dr. Higuchi, First Secretary, Japanese Embassy.

Successfully completed Briefing Notes for Minister Ngafuan's relative to the Mano River Union Extraordinary Summit on the Eradication of Ebola and Post-Ebola Socio-Economic Recovery Strategy held in Conakry, Guinea, from 13 - 15 February 2015.

Successfully participated in a bi-monthly meeting with Minister Ngafuan, relative to providing status update on the Department's six months deliverables.

Successfully facilitated and coordinated a field visit of the M&E Unit to Grand Cape Mount County to assess the construction of three bridges and the progress made thus far.

Successfully chaired the Ministry's personnel procedure transformation committee on Saturday, 28 February 2015, discussed matters pertaining to the Ministry's personnel listing with positions and the disparity in the distribution of salaries, allowances and other benefits.

Successfully completed the IECI Project Policy Guide and payroll for April 2015 for the Japanese Project.

Successfully participated in a meeting with the Egypt's Ambassador to Liberia and Minister Ngafuan. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Liberia-Egypt Joint Commission, on 20 April 2015.

Successfully participated in a meeting with the Chief Medical Officer of RL, Dr. Francis Kateh and Chinese Ambassador Zhang Yue, regarding the eventual transfer to Government of the Chinese Ebola Treatment Unit located at the SKD Stadium, on 22 April 2015.

Successfully participated in a meeting with the ECOWAS Ambassador, H.E Tunde Ajisomo, at ECOWAS Office in Monrovia on 23 April 2015 to discuss a joint celebration of the 40th Anniversary of ECOWAS on 28 May 2015.

Successfully participated in a meeting with Minister Ngafuan to discuss issues relative to Liberia's obligations to international organizations and international job vacancies, held on 19 March 2015.

Successfully completed and submitted to the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs a statement to be delivered by H.E. Augustine K. Ngafuan at a reception in honor of Ms. Susan Wardell, Vice President for Corporate Affairs, African Development Bank, at Sam Barbecue Restaurant on 17 March 2015.

Successfully completed and submitted the final toolkit/concept for the launch of the Ministry's Computer Training Program as part of its six (6) months deliverables.

Successfully completed a project guide for the expansion of the Unit to become Ministry's M&E Unit for monitoring and evaluation of all government bilateral and multilateral agreements.

Successfully participated in a bilateral discussion with the European Union (EU) Delegation to brainstorm on the possibility of staging the EU-Liberia Political Dialogue, on 19 March 2015.

Successfully coordinated with the Bureau of Protocol to ensure that meetings are scheduled between visiting members of the UN Panel of Experts on Liberia and relevant institutions of Government namely: MOJ, MIA, AFL, NSA, LNP, LNCSA, DEA, NS Advisor, Legal Advisor to the President, and Solicitor General, RL.

Successfully completed and submitted to the Office of the President, a full report from the 3rd Quadripartite Meeting between Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, UNMIL and UNOCI, in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire held from 9-10 March 2015.

Successfully participated in an inter-departmental consultative meeting geared towards strategizing on how to tactically engage the UNDP in financing critical gaps in service delivery for the UNDP-Ministry of Foreign Affairs Collaborative Project.

Successfully completed three (3) separate concept notes for possible economic engagement with Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand.

Successfully collaborated with the Department of Legal Affairs, relative to reviewing a draft Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Georgia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia.

Successfully participated in a meeting with PPCC, relative to ascertaining if the work plan prepared by the project manager Augustine Nyanplu was in line with their process and procedure.

Successfully completed the research analyst toolkit as requested by Minister Ngafuan during the last Department meeting.

Successfully held an in-house meeting with the Bureaus of American and European Affairs to discuss the planning and organizing of the 3rd US-Liberia Partnership Dialogue and the 3rd EU-Liberia Political Dialogue, and derive some plausible actionable points to inform the Department's work.

Successfully organized and participated in the Japanese Counterpart Value Inter-Ministerial Stakeholders (MOA, MIA, MOCI, MFA and MPW) Meeting in the conference room of the Foreign Ministry on Thursday, 5 March 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to take stock and provide status update on the implementation of projects under the Counterpart Value Fund.

Successfully participated in the preparatory meeting held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in preparation for the 3rd Quadripartite Meeting between Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, UNMIL and UNOCI, slated for 9-10 March 2015 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

Successfully represented and participated in a consultative meeting organized by the Mano River Union at the Monrovia City Hall from 3-5 March 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to address the socio-economic impact of Ebola on the sub-region.

Successfully represented the Ministry at a Governance and Public Institutions Pillar of the Agenda for Transformation Meeting at the National Elections Commission on 5 March 2015.

Successfully chaired the final meeting of the Ministry's Personnel Procedure Transformation Committee, to conclude matters pertaining to the Ministry's: (1) Bereavement Policy, (2) Draft Welfare Policy, (3) Term of Reference for positions, (4) the Administrative Policies and Standard Operating Procedure Manual and (5) the current personnel listing with positions and the disparity in the distribution of salaries, allowances and other benefits.

Foreign Travels

The Deputy Minister for International Economic Cooperation and Integration participated and/or represented Government at the following meetings and conferences during the reporting period:

1. **Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting on Post-2015 Agenda:**
 - ✓ Deputy Minister Kaydor, attended as Head of Government's delegation to the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting on Post-2015 Agenda in New York, USA, from 18-22 May 2015.
2. **Ministerial Meeting of the African Least Developed Countries on Structural Transformation, Graduation and the Post-2015 Development Agenda:**
 - ✓ Deputy Minister Kaydor represented Government at the Ministerial Meeting of African Least Developed Countries on Structural Transformation, Graduation and the Post – 2015 Development Agenda. The ceremony was held from 8 – 10 June 2015 in Milan, Italy
3. **25th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union and other meetings:**
 - ✓ Deputy Minister Kaydor represented Government at the 25th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union and other meetings held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 14-15 June 2015.
4. **Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting on Post-2015 Agenda:**
 - ✓ Deputy Minister Kaydor, attended as Head of Government's delegation to the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting on Post-2015 Agenda in New York, USA, from 22-25 June 2015.
5. **Third International Conference on Financing & Development:**
 - ✓ Deputy Minister Kaydor, attended as Head of Government's delegation to the Third International Conference on Financing & Development Meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 13-16 July 2015.
6. **Seventh Intergovernmental Meeting on Post-2015 Agenda:**
 - ✓ Deputy Minister Kaydor, attended as Head of Government's delegation to the Fifth Intergovernmental Meeting on Post-2015 Agenda in New York, USA, from 20-31 July 2015.
7. **The 3rd Quadripartite Meeting:**

Deputy Minister Kaydor, attended and participated in the 3rd Quadripartite Meeting between Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, UNMIL and UNOCI, held from 9-10 March 2015 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.
8. **34th Ordinary Meeting of ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council**

Successfully participated in the 74th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers' Meeting and the 34th Ordinary Meeting of the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council held in Accra, Ghana from 15 – 19 May 2015.

a) Bureau of International Cooperation and Economic Integration

The Bureau of International Cooperation and Economic Affairs, as the technical and implementing arm of the Department of International Economic Cooperation, during the period under review, continue to execute its statutory responsibilities of coordinating Government's economic and technical assistance programs as they find expression in international political economy.

The Bureau also collaborated with other state and non-state actors in the formulation and implementation of Government's development cooperation and foreign economic assistance programs, as you will see in the sections that follow.

Personnel

1. Hon. Dehpue Y. Zuo	-	Assistant Minister
2. Dave B. Kontoe	-	Senior Desk Officer
3. Daniel Rogers	-	Desk Officer
4. Victor C. Scott	-	Desk Officer
5. Chupee M. Bemah	-	Desk Officer
6. Fakateh S. Weagba	-	Secretary
7. Thomas Cooper	-	Research Assistant
8. Christiana Wahblo	-	Research Analyst
9. Meaker B. Karter	-	Research Analyst
10. Jessie K. Miamen	-	Office Assistant

At the end of the reporting period, Ms. Irene N. Doegma, Research Analyst, left the Bureau to seek better employment opportunity, thereby, creating a vacuum in a Bureau that is already under-staffed.

Bilateral Economic Cooperation

A. Technical Assistance

During the period under review, the Government of Liberia benefitted from several technical assistance programs in the form of scholarships, short-term training courses, inter-alia, from a wide –variety of friendly foreign governments as follows:

India

The Government of India under the India Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) and Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP) Technical Cooperation Scheme of Colombo Plan awarded 30 capacity building slots to Liberia for the period 2015/2016. The program consists of short, medium, and long-term training programs. During the same period, six Liberian students departed the country to pursue graduate studies in various academic disciplines mainly in the sciences in India. Out of 10 scholarships to pursue one year post-graduate diploma in Public Health Management offered the Government by Partners in Population and Development in New Delhi, only one applicant in person of Dr. Hawah Kromah was selected.

China

In continuation of the Chinese Government's bilateral scholarship program to Liberia, 25 qualified Liberian students are currently in China (PRC) undergoing graduate studies. Moreover, the Chinese Government has provided more than 250 short-term courses for both senior and middle level government employees and professionals in other institutions of the Liberian society.

To ensure the effective management and maintenance of the Ebola Treatment Unit constructed by the Chinese Government, 30 health workers from the Ministry of Health underwent training in China (PRC).

Nigeria

The Federal Republic of Nigeria provided 15 Technical Aid Corps (TAC) volunteers to be assigned at the Colleges in Liberia, beginning August 2015.

Singapore

The Government of Singapore under its technical cooperation program has provided and continues to assist Government with an array of short-term specialized professional training courses to address the capacity gaps in our country. Information regarding the full utilization of training offered to Government remains scanty, considering the provision that says "the nominating institution is responsible to underwrite the travel expenses of their participants to the training program. This condition has caused a number of agencies to hold back.

Japan

The Government of Japan offered Government one bilateral scholarship for qualified Liberians to study in Japan during the academic year 2015/2016. The Japanese Government also awarded Liberia four Master Degree and Internship Programs of the African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE) Initiative), in fulfillment of commitments made during TICAD V, in Yokohama, Japan. Apart from long-term bilateral programs, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) under its capacity development initiative continues to provide training courses to middle level government employees, mainly in health, and agriculture.

Georgia

Mr. Emmanuel Tarblah, Ms. Octavia Siaway, and Ms. Anita Jaywoloh are currently in the Republic of Georgia studying medicine for six years at the Tbilisi State University. The three bilateral scholarships came as a result of heightening relations between our two governments in recent times.

Morocco

The Moroccan Government in 2015 awarded 35 undergraduate scholarships to Government. The Inter-Ministerial Scholarship Committee now under the Ministry of Education confirmed that Liberia would not feed any candidate due to acute budgetary constraints. Considering this

development, the Moroccan Government has advised that Liberia might be removed from its scholarship program.

Egypt

The Egyptian Government in 2015 offered 14 bilateral scholarships to Liberia. Government through the Ministry of Education failed to utilize the scholarships due to what the Ministry termed as acute budgetary constraints. Despite Government's failure to utilize the long-term scholarship, more than 25 Liberian public sector personnel participated in various training programs in Egypt during the period under review.

Turkey

Government of Turkey announced its undergraduate and post-graduate scholarship program for the academic year 2015/2016 for qualified Liberians.

B. Development Assistance (Financial and Capital Assistance, Program Aid, etc.)

As part of Government's development agenda to encourage and spur Liberian private sector investment, the Bureau during the reporting period made a formal request to the Dutch Government to enlist Liberia into its development cooperation programs directed by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Programs applied for included:

1. Private Sector Investment (PSI)
2. Dutch Good Growth Fund (DGGF)
3. Match Making Facility (MMF)
4. Partners for International Business (PIB)
5. Netherlands Fellowship Program (NFP)
6. Finance for International Business (FIB)
7. Government 2 Government and Knowledge 2 Knowledge

Japan

The Government of Japan through Exchange of Notes, signed on 18 May 2015 between the Government of the Republic of Liberia and the Government of Japan provides for a Non Project Grant Aid (NPGA) in Petroleum and Ebola assistance valued at ¥ 500, 000, 000.00 (Five Hundred Million Japanese Yen) . Consistent with the Exchange of Notes, Government will monetize the petroleum products and use the proceeds for quick impact socio-economic development projects identified by the Liberian side and approved by the Japanese Government.

On 23 March 2015, H.E. Mr. Kaoru Yoshimura, Ambassador of Japan to Liberia unveiled 8,000 metric tons of rice donated to the Liberian Government by the Japanese Government in fulfillment of the fifth round of KR-Food Aid to Liberia at the Freeport of Monrovia.

The African-Caribbean Business Enterprise (ABE) on 23 March 2015 handed over to Government an assortment of medical supplies valued at US\$ 1.5 million in support of Government's efforts to contain Ebola Virus Disease in Liberia.

China (PRC)

The Government of the People's Republic of China through its Embassy near Monrovia donated sixteen (16) protocol vehicles to Government for use by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for protocol services. The vehicles were officially turned over to Government 3 June 2015.

Chinese Government donated a consignment of medical supplies and logistics valued at ¥31.5 (Thirty-One Million, Five Hundred Thousand Yuan Renminbi) about US\$ 5.1 million (Five Million, One Hundred Thousand United States Dollars) to Government in support of Ebola fight

Russian Federation

The Russian Government's special-purpose payment of US\$6.6 million to the International Civil Defense Organization (ICDO) to finance the costs associated with the provision of humanitarian assistance in Liberia and Guinea.

Nigeria

Africa Reinsurance Corporation (Africa RE) of Lagos, Nigeria transferred US\$50,000.00 to Government's Ebola Trust Fund in fulfillment of its commitment to the fight against Ebola.

C. Cooperation Agreements

In 2015, the Bureau of International Cooperation and Economic Integration, in collaboration with the Department of Legal Affairs, initiated several bilateral instruments intended to strengthen Liberia's engagements with other friendly governments in the international community within the framework of attracting potential development assistance to implement the country's post-Ebola Stabilization and Economic Recovery Plan (ESRP) vis-à-vis the Agenda for Transformation (AfT).

Proposed Agreements from Liberia to other Countries

1. Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of political consultation mechanism between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Georgia.
2. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Liberia and the Government of the Republic of South Africa for Cooperation in the Field of Geology, Mining, Mineral Processing and Metallurgy. The proposed agreement was transmitted to the Government of South Africa via its Embassy near Monrovia and our Mission in Pretoria for the South African Government's consideration.
3. General Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Liberia and the Government of the Republic of Colombia.
4. General Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Liberia and the Government of the Republic of Singapore.

5. General Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Liberia and the Government of the Federation of Malaysia.
6. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Liberia and Government of the Republic of India on Mutual Visa Exemption for holders of diplomatic passports.
7. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Liberia and Government of Japan on Mutual Visa Exemption for holders of diplomatic passports.
8. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Liberia and Government of the Republic of South Africa on Mutual Visa Exemption for holders of diplomatic passports.
9. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Liberia and Government of the Kingdom of Morocco regarding the Mutual Abolition of Visas for holders of diplomatic passports.
10. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Liberia and Government of the Republic of the People's Republic of China on Mutual Visa Exemption for holders of diplomatic passports.

✓ **Proposed Agreements from other Countries to Liberia**

1. The Kingdom of Morocco, transmitted the amended version of the draft Morocco-Liberia Agreement on Maritime Fishery.
2. Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of bilateral consultation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia
3. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the Republic of Liberia on Technical Cooperation

Agreements Finalized

A Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of a political consultation mechanism between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Georgia was signed in October 2015 in New York on the sideline of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Liberia and the Government of the Republic of South Africa for Cooperation in the Field of Geology, Mining, Mineral Processing and Metallurgy was signed in Johannesburg on the margin of the 25th Ordinary Session of the African Union, held from 8th to 15th June 2015.

The Government of Liberia dispatched a technical team to Doha, the State of Qatar from 11-12 November 2015 to negotiate with their Qatari counterparts to finalize the proposed Agreement on

the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income between our two governments.

D. Trade and Investment Missions

The Netherlands

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Government of Liberia held a one-day Trade Round Table in Monrovia on 6 July 2015. Ms. Lilianne Ploumen, Minister of Trade and Development Cooperation led the Netherlands delegation, comprising six government officials and 30 corporate executives, representing a range of Dutch companies. As a result of the Netherlands Trade and Economic Mission, Liberia has been officially admitted into the following development cooperation programs:

1. The investment of a public-private partnership for infrastructural development to Liberia
2. The Dutch Group Growth Fund
3. The Netherlands Fellowship Program - scholarships to Liberian students.
4. Advocacy for a global tax system that is transparent

China Win-Win Business Mission

The Bureau successfully facilitated and coordinated a trade and business mission from the People's Republic of China from July 31st to August 10th, 2015. The purpose of the "Chinese Win-Win Business Mission" was to explore potential investment opportunities in the Liberian economy.

Qatar's Fact-finding and Exploratory Mission

A two-member Qatari fact finding trade delegation visited Liberia from 14-16 October 2015 to explore possible investment opportunities aimed at enhancing and deepening bilateral economic cooperation between Liberia and Qatar. During the visit, a number of potential areas for future Qatari investment were identified. Key priority areas identified include:

- Investment in the energy sector: hydro and solar energy
- Investment in the tourism industry: Ducor & Hotel Africa Hotels, Lake Piso, etc.
- Development of port facilities along the Liberian coast
 1. Freeport of Monrovia
 2. Buchanan Port
 3. Port of Greenville Expansion
 4. Port of Harper
- Investment in housing - real estate
- Investment in capital markets - financial institutions

Town-Twinning

Mrs. Christian Tolbert Norman, Mayor of Bentol City led a special mission to Côte d'Ivoire to negotiate for the establishment of a sisterly-city relationship between Bentol City and cities in the district autonomous of Abidjan.

Joint Commission Meetings & Political Dialogue

During the reporting period, the Bureau, in conjunction with other relevant Bureaus and Departments of the Ministry, facilitated and coordinated the following political dialogues:

1. Third EU-Liberia Political Dialogue held on 15 April 2015 in the C. Cecil Dennis Auditorium at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
2. The First Liberia-Japan Political Dialogue, held in Monrovia from 6-8 September 2015.

Due to political and technical reasons, a number of planned joint commission meetings failed to convene during the period under review. For instance, the Liberia-Cote d'Ivoire Joint Commission (JC) was postponed to next year because of the ongoing electoral process in that country. The Bureau is working through diplomatic channels to resuscitate pending JC meetings

International Conferences, Seminars and Fora

The Liberian government, during the report period, received invitations from friendly governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, policy and research institutions, business establishments, and an array of other international bodies to participate in conferences, seminars and workshops, aimed at fostering international cooperation in particular areas of mutual concern.

b) Bureau of International Organization Affairs

The Bureau of International Organizations Affairs (BOIA) is an important component of the Department of International Cooperation and Economic Integration (IC&EI). It serves as Government liaison to International Organizations. The Bureau is responsible to monitor and report to Government pending conferences, symposia, training opportunities, workshops and international jobs vacancies. It also reminds Government of its financial obligations to international organizations and has a statutory responsibility to prepare Government's delegations for international conferences by the issuance of credentials authorizing them to represent government to these conferences.

Personnel

The Bureau of International Organization Affairs is headed by Assistant Minister Therry S. Genesis and assisted by the following:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Tommy D. Garkpah, Sr | - | Senior Desk Officer (UN) |
| 2. Mr. James Z. Holmes* | - | Desk Officer (AU) |
| 3. Mr. Samuel K. Ekyinabah* | - | Policy Analyst |
| 4. Mr. Arthur W. Robinson | - | Research Analyst |
| 5. Mr. Nehker Gaye | - | Research Analyst (Distant) |
| 6. Mr. Sema M. Farcarthy | - | Research Assistant |
| 7. Mrs. Cynthia K. Musa | - | Research Assistant (Distant) |
| 8. Mr. Frederick B. Jallah | - | Computer Analyst |
| 10. Mrs. Gertrude R. Fahnbulleh | - | Secretary |
| 11. Mrs. Anna B. Farley | - | File Clerk |

*Two (2) additional employees were transferred to the Bureau in April, 2015. They were Mr. James Z. Holmes, formerly of the Bureau of Afro-Asian Affairs and Mr. Samuel K. Ekyinabah, formerly of the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Relocation of the Bureau

On the 21st of October 2015, the Bureau was relocated to the former offices of the Liberia Commission on Small Arms, Ground Floor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Statistics on Credentials issued

During the period under review, as part of the Bureau's core functions they issued out 113 credentials to representatives from various government ministries and functionaries to attend and participate in international conferences and meetings.

Candidature Requests from Friendly Governments for GOL's Support

For the reporting period (January 1 to December 31, 2015), The BIOA received and responded to numerous communications from our development partners as well as other international organizations. Most of the communications received were candidature requests from friendly governments seeking government's support for their candidature to positions in organizations attached to the United Nations as well as outside the UN System. Other communications received were letters of invitation to government agencies and congratulatory messages to the President of Liberia Her Excellency Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf on the occasion of the 168th Independence of the Republic of Liberia.

Financial Obligations settled by GOL to International Organizations

The Government of Liberia in its strive to maintain good standing financially with some International Organizations which Liberia is a member, settled its financial obligation to the African Union (AU) for the year 2015. According to the Permanent Mission of Liberia, a Receipt Voucher No. 33079 dated 2 March, 2015 was received from the United Nations Secretariat confirming receipt of the amount of \$10,370.00 as contributions from the Government of Liberia. This amount has been allocated towards liquidating outstanding obligations to specific peacekeeping operations named in the communication.

Foreign Travels

The Assistant Minister for International Organizations Affairs attended four important conferences/meetings during the period under review. They included:

1. The 24th Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union which convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from January 23- 31 2015.
2. The 25th Ordinary Session of Heads of States and Government of the African Union which took place from 7-15 of June 2015 in Johannesburg, South Africa.
3. The induction ceremony and training workshop organized by the IAEA for the National Liaison Officers (NLOs) from Africa which convened from 7-26 April 2015 in Vienna, Austria.

4. Participated in the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York from September 19 - October 8, 2015.

At the United Nations General Assembly, the following issues were highlighted:

- a. The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- b. The president's statement at the United Nations General Assembly delivered on September 19, 2015;
- c. Liberia's support for friendly governments at United Nations elections - October 2015;
- d. Statutory Committees' Meetings attended by Government;
- e. Bilateral Meeting with the Republic of Georgia

Appointments of New Country Directors for UNHCR, WFP, UNFPA and UNDP

During this reporting period, there were four new Country Directors appointed to take up residence in Liberia. They are:

1. Ms. Ndeye Ndiougue Ndour, United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR);
2. Mr. Sory Ibrahim Duane, World Food Programme (WFP);
3. Mr. Oluremi Sogunro, United Nation Population Funds (UNFPA); and
4. Dr. Kamil K. Kamaluddeen, United Nations' Development Programme (UNDP).

4. DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

The Department of Legal Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs serves as the legal arm of the Ministry. Paramount amongst the function of the Department is to advise the Minister of Foreign Affairs on issues of Liberian Foreign Policy Orientation and International Law. The Department also provides other legal services in the Ministry. It serves as custodian of all treaties, conventions, protocols and other international legal instruments concluded between the Government of the Republic of Liberia and other nation-states as well international organizations.

As part of its statutory mandate, the Department reviews all instruments to be considered for ratification before submission to the Office of the President of the Republic of Liberia, for onward submission to the National Legislature. In keeping with the Hague Convention, the Department authenticates public documents prepared or issued in Liberia. It is also involved with the processing and filling of corporate documents (Articles of Incorporations), in collaboration with Liberia Business Registry.

Other functions of the Department include: (1) the preparation of joint communiqués and agreements during visits of foreign heads of state or dignitaries to Liberia and during similar visits by the President of Liberia or designees to foreign countries and (ii) the review and negotiation of other international cooperation and joint commission agreements.

Importantly, the Department also performs quasi-judicial functions such as settling of disputes involving foreign diplomatic missions accredited to Liberia and Liberian citizens, residents or Liberian Corporate entities. The constituent elements of the Department of Legal Affairs are:

- (1) Bureau of Archives
- (2) Bureau of Printing & Publications
- (3) Bureau of Passports and Visas

Personnel

The Department of Legal Affairs is currently headed by Cllr. Boakai N. Kanneh, Deputy Minister for Legal Affairs/Counselor. The Deputy Minister for Legal Affairs is assisted by the Assistant Minister for Legal Affairs, Mrs. Evelyn Kou Lah – Adile. She replaced Attorney-at-Law Jeddi Armah who was relieved of his position by President Sirleaf on August 25, 2015.

Other personnel of the Department include:

1.	Attorney-at-Law Reuben C. Sirleaf	Legal Counsel
2.	Mr. Foley J. Kiatamba	Treaty Officer
3.	Mr. Jehu B. Yates, Sr.	Treaty Officer
4.	Mrs. Aletha Lah Cassell	Research Analyst
5.	Mr. Edwin D. Jarlebah	Research Analyst
6.	Mr. Abraham T. Swen	Research Analyst
7.	Mr. George S. Dehsonnon	Research Assistant
8.	Mr. Henry Williamson	Research Assistant
9.	Mr. Allen McClain	Office Assistant
10.	Mr. Daniel Amara	Office Assistant
11.	Ms. Margaret M. Karngar	Executive Secretary
12.	Mrs. Monlay Saylay Varma	Secretary
13.	Ms. Sonnie D. Akoi	Secretary
14.	Mr. James Dolo	Chauffeur
15.	Mr. David Kollie	Chauffeur

Conventions, Protocols, Treaties, & Agreements

During the reporting period, the Government of the Republic of Liberia held several meetings with other nation-states and concluded several Protocols, Agreements/Legal Instruments as follows:

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania (1)

The Governments of the Republic of Liberia and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania agreed for the provision of a grant to assist in the fight against Ebola. The grant was intended to assist Liberia in the fight against Ebola. The agreement was signed on January 5, 2015.

People's Republic of China (3)

Following the exchange of Diplomatic Notes between the Governments of Liberia and the People's Republic of China, the two countries concluded three agreements in 2015 as follows:

1. On January 13, 2015, an Agreement to provide the Government of Liberia with a batch of assistance (Protocol vehicles). The value of the assistance was estimated at 8,000,000 RMB (Yuan). The Agreement provided that the Government of the People's Republic of China transported the materials to Monrovia;

2. Agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Liberia and the People's Republic of China, for the implementation of duty-free treatment for products that cover a portion of the tariff lines. It also promotes the economic development of both countries and aims at strengthening economic and trade relations. The duty-free privilege extends to cover 97 percent of the tariff line. This Agreement was concluded on January 13, 2015;
3. At the request of the Government of the Republic of Liberia, the Government of the People's Republic of China dispatched eight experts - three in bamboo rattan weaving, two in vegetable planting, one in mechanical repairs, one in bio-gas and one interpreter to Liberia. The Agreement provided for the conduct of special skills training on bamboo rattan weaving and vegetable planting for young Liberians. It also provided for study on planting and promoting Chinese vegetables, melons, fruits, and other produce. The Agreement was signed on April 17, 2015.

Republic of Japan (3)

In furtherance of their cordial relations, the Republics of Liberia and Japan concluded and signed the followings:

1. An agreement of a grant for the promotion of the economic and social development efforts of the Republic of Liberia was signed on March 17, 2015. In accordance with the relevant laws and regulations of Japan, a grant of five hundred million Japanese Yen (¥500,000,000) is intended to augment the efforts of the Government of Liberia to combat the Ebola virus and other infectious diseases. The grant and its accrued interests will be used by the Government of the Republic of Liberia for the purchase of products enumerated in a list to be mutually agreed upon by the two Governments;
2. An amendment to the grant agreement for the project for the reconstruction of Somalia Drive and the amendment for the project for the rehabilitation of Monrovia power system was also signed; and
3. On October 5, 2015, the head of the Liberian Mission in the Republic of Ghana was issued a letter of full powers to sign the Exchange of Notes on the project for rehabilitation of the Monrovia power system.

United States of America (3)

Following the exchange of Diplomatic Notes, Liberia and the United States consummated the followings:

1. On June 3, 2015, an agreement for the United States of America to assist with Ebola response efforts of Liberia was signed. Along with that contribution, the United States Department of Defense would provide and seeks to provide in the future assistance through the Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction Program (CTR) and Cooperative Biological Engagement Program (CBEP);
2. On October 5, 2015, the United States of America requested the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to inform the relevant authorities of the Embassy's intent to utilize the design build firm Dover Vantage, contracted by the U. S. Department of Defense, to complete renovation of the Bushrod Island, Liberian Coast Guard (LCG) boat ramp. The request grew out of the Defense Cooperation Agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Liberia and the United States of America; and
3. In October 2015, the Government of Liberia and the United States of America signed the Millennium Challenge Compact Corporation.

Georgia (1)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose of strengthening cooperation and mutual contracts, establishment of political consultations and exchange of opinions, on different levels, concerning regional and global issues of common interest between the two foreign ministries. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed in New York on October 1, 2015.

Multilateral Agreements (2)

1. The Government of the Republic of Liberia have signed an Agreement on the establishment of Regional Transmission Company between Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea (TRANSCO CLSG); and
2. The Government of the Republic of Liberia signed the instrument for International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction on March 18, 2025, which have been forwarded to the Legislature for ratification.

The following instruments were forwarded from the Office of the President to the Legislature for ratification.

ECOWAS Instruments:

Protocol A/P@/1/03 relating to the Application of Compensation Procedures for Loss of Revenue Incurred by ECOWAS Member States as a result of the Trade Liberalization Scheme;

Protocol Establishing an ECOWAS Criminal Intelligence and Investigation Bureau;

Protocol A/SP1/12/01 on Democracy and Good Governance Supplementary to the Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention Management Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security;

Protocol A/PI/12/01 Amending Articles 1, 3, 6 and 21 of the Revised Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States;

Supplementary Protocol A/SP.1/01/05 Amending the Preamble and Articles 1, 2, 9, 22 and 30 of the Protocol A/P.1/7/91 Relating to the Community Court of Justice and Article 4, Paragraph 1 of the English Version of the Said Protocol;

Protocol A/P3/12/01 on Fight against Corruption;

Supplementary Protocol A/SP.3/06/06 Amending Protocol A/P.2/8/94 Relating to the Community Parliament;

Protocol A/P.4/01/03 on Energy;

Agreement on the Cooperation in Criminal Matters between the Police of Member States of the Economic Community of West African States;

Supplementary Protocol A/SP.1/01/06 Amending Articles V1-C, VI-L, IX-8, XI-2 and XII of Protocol A/P2/7/87 on the Establishment of the West African Health Organization (WAHO);

Supplementary Protocol A/SP.2/06/06 Amending Article 3 Paragraphs 1, 2 and 4, Article 4 Paragraphs 1,3 and Article 7 Paragraph 3 of the Protocol on the Community Court of Justice;

ECOWAS Energy Protocol A/P4/1/03;

Supplementary Protocol A/SP.1/06/06 Amending the Revised ECOWAS Treaty and Protocol A/P2/12/01 Relating to the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID).

UNESCO Instruments:

Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage 1972
Protocol to the Agreement on the Importation of Educational Scientific or Cultural Material, with Annexes A to H1976

Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1999;

Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict;

The 1954 Hague Convention and Preserving Cultural Heritage Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property;

Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions 2005 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003.

Articles of Incorporation Processed

During the period, **January – October, 2015**, the Legal Department assessed and filed corporate documents. The below listed are categories of Corporations filed with copies of their revenue receipts:

No.	Corporation	Quantity	Amount
1.	Profit Making	203	US\$4,140.00
2.	Not-Profit Making	346	US\$17,300.00
3.	Amendment	56	US\$560.00
4.	Application for Authority	5	US\$2,500.00
	TOTAL	610	US24,500.00

a) Bureau of Printing and Publications

The main function of the Bureau of Printing and Publications continues to be printing, publication and distribution of official papers. Such papers include: Acts of the Legislature, Official Gazettes, Executive Orders and Proclamations by the President of the Republic of Liberia.

Official Gazettes for Obituary:

Consistent with the Executive Law of Liberia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs published forty six (46) Official Obituary Gazettes from January to December, 2015.

Proclamation Issued in Favor of National Holidays & Working Holidays:

Proclamations are issued to declare or announce statutory national and other holidays, executive orders, decrees and other joint resolutions of the Legislature for specific state events. For the reporting year January –December, 2015 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has declared the following national and working holidays as indicated the matrix below:

NO.	NATIONAL EVENT	THEME	EVENT DATE	PUBLISHED DATE
1.	National Armed Forces Day	None	February 11, 2015	January 12, 2015
2.	International Women's Day	Global Theme: "Make it Happen" and Theme: "Women Rising Beyond Ebola	March 8, 2015	February 9, 2015
3.	Decoration Day	None	Second Wednesday in March	February 12, 2015
4.	J.J. Roberts Birth Day	None	March 15, 2015	February 12, 2015
5.	Fast and Prayer Day	None	Second Friday in April 2015	March 24, 2015
6.	World Health Day	How Safe is Your Food? From Farm to Plate, Make Food Safe":	April 7, 2015	March 27, 2015
7.	World Malaria Day	Global theme: "Invest in The Future, Defeat Malaria," and the local slogan "No Mosquito, No Malaria":	April 25, 2015	March 27, 2015
8.	Red Cross Red Crescent Day	The Power of Humanity	May 1 through 31	April16, 2015
9.	National Unification Day	None	May 14, 2015	April16, 2015
10.	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	Telecommunications & ICTS: Drives of Innovations	May 18, 2015	April 27, 2015
11.	World Environment Day	One World, One Environment	June 5, 2015	May 5, 2015
12.	Day of the African Child	25 Years After the Adoption of the African Children's Charter: Accelerating our Collective Efforts to End Child Marriages in Africa	June 16, 2015	May 16,2015
13.	Scout Week	Taking Scouting to the People	May 24 - 30	May 20, 2015
14.	World Refugee Day	Refugees, Ordinary People Forced to Flee	June 20, 2015	June 16, 2015
15.	National Public Service Day	The Role of Public Service in Women Empowerment, Innovation and Accessible Service Delivery", and the National theme: "Women Empowerment: The Fulcrum to Nation Building	June 23, 2015	June 16, 2015

16.	International Drug Day	Let develop our lives, our communities, our identities without drugs	June 26, 2015	June 18, 2015
17.	National Flag Day	None	August 24, 2015	July 29, 2015
18.	World Ozone Protection Day	30 th years healing the ozone together	September 16, 2015	September 1, 2015
19.	International Day Of Peace	Partnerships for Peace-Dignity for All	September 21, 2015	September 10 2015
20.	World Tourism Day	One Billion Tourists, One Billion Opportunities	September 27, 2015	September 24, 2015
21.	International Day of the Girl Child	International Theme: "The Power of The Adolescent Girl: Vision For 2030" and The National Theme: "Ensuring Quality Education for Girls Empowerment"	October 11, 2015	September 30, 2015,
22.	United Nations Day"	United Nations At 70-A New Commitment to Action"	October 24, 2015	September 24 , 2015
23.	World Sight and White Cane Safety Day	Universal Eye Health Call for Action" With the Slogan "EYE CARE For ALL	October 15, 2015	October 9, 2015

Executive Orders Issued in 2015:

NO.	EXECUTIVES ORDERS	DATE RELEASED	ORDERS #:
1.	Executive Order, Extending the Tenure of Land Commission by one year	January 16, 2015	# 66
2.	Executive Order, Extending the Moratorium on Public Land Sales	January 16, 2015	#67
3.	Executive Order, Establishment of Taskforce against the Encroachment on Beach Fronts, Water Ways, and Wet Lands.	January 16, 2015	#68
4.	Executive Order, Suspending 904 (a) and (b) of the Liberia Revenue Code of 2000 as Amended	January 16, 2015	#69
5.	Executive Order, Extending Executive Order Number 61 Suspending Tariff on Rice	June 26, 2015	#70
6.	Executive Order, Exempting Selected Entities from Custom Duties on Fuel.	August 3, 2015	#71
7.	Executive Order, Extension of Executive Order #57	August 3, 2015	#72

List of Legislation Published into Handbills in 2015

NO.	HANDBILLS	APPROVED	PUBLISHED
1.	An Act to Repeal the Act Incorporating the Liberia National Lotteries Corporation of 1993 and to enact in lieu thereof the National Lottery Authority Act to conduct, manage, regulate and supervise national lotteries, lotto and games of change.	December 22, 2014	March 6, 2015

2.	An Act to amend Chapter 29, of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Executive Law, Title 12, Liberia Code of Laws Revised to provide for the establishment of a Department of Small Administration	December 22, 2014	March 6, 2015
3.	An Act to repeal Chapter 53 of the Executive Law of 1972 and all amendments thereto, replacing there under the duties, functions and responsibilities of the Auditor-General and the General Auditing Commission	December 22, 2014	March 6, 2015
4.	An Act to establish the Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI), Republic of Liberia as an autonomous agency	December 22, 2014	March 6, 2015
5.	An Act to establish the Rural Renewable Energy Agency	July 6, 2015	July 15, 2015
6.	An Act to establish the Dolokellen Gboveh Multilateral High School (DGMHS) within Jorquelleh District, Bong County, Republic of Liberia	July 6, 2015	July 29, 2015
7.	An Act to incorporate the Bong County Technical College	July 6, 2015	July 29, 2015
8.	An Act to establish the Sinoe Community College in Sinoe County, Republic of Liberia	July 6, 2015	July 29, 2015
9.	An Act to establish E. J. Yancy Multilateral High School (EJYMHS) within Salala District, Bong County, Republic of Liberia	July 6, 2015	July 29, 2015
10.	An Act creating the Township of Zolowo within Zorzor Administrative District, Lofa County, Republic of Liberia	December 10, 2014	February 4, 2015
11.	An Act creating the City of Salayea within Salayea Administrative District, Lofa County, Republic of Liberia	December 10, 2014	January 14, 2015
12.	An Act declaring Lower Worker Clan as Magisterial Area within Voinjama District, Lofa County	December 10, 2014	January 14, 2015
13.	An Act to establish a Magisterial Court in Kilepo Kanweanken, Chedepo District, River Gee County, Republic of Liberia	December 10, 2014	January 14, 2015
14.	An Act to create Barkedu Township within Quardu-Gbondi District, Lofa County, Republic of Liberia	December 10, 2014	January 14, 2015
15.	An Act to combine the Wanwonma and Hassala Clans to create a district to be known as the Wansasa District, Lofa County for the purpose of good governance in local administration	November 5, 2014	January 17, 2015
16.	An Act to create Lukambeh Administrative District within Lofa County, Republic of Liberia	March 27, 2015	June 9, 2015
17.	An Act to approve the budget for the fiscal period beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016 providing for the expenditure of the Government of the Republic of Liberia	August 25, 2015	September 3, 2015
18.	An Act to ratify the loan agreement rehabilitation of Robert's International Airport project between the Saudi Fund for Development and the Republic of Liberia	August 12, 2015	August 19, 2015
19.	An Act to ratify the financing contract between the Republic of Liberia and the European Investment Bank	August 12, 2015	August 19, 2015

	(Airside Safety Works – International Airport Monrovia)		
20.	An Act to ratify the Agreement for the establishment of the Africa Finance Corporation	July 20, 2015	August 19, 2015
21.	An Act to ratify the Loan Agreement Rehabilitation of Robert's International Airport project between the Republic of Liberia and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa	August 12, 2015	August 19, 2015
22.	An Act to ratify the Agreement to the External and Restated Agency Agreement between the Republic of Liberia and Liberia International Ship and Corporate Registry (LISCR, LCC)	April 22, 2015	May 5, 2015
23.	An Act ratifying the Loan Agreement between the Republic of Liberia and the African Development Fund (On behalf of the Transition Support Facility) (Mano River Union Road Development and Transport Facilitation Programme – MRU-RDTFP)	May 1, 2015	May 4, 2015
24.	An Act ratifying the Loan Agreement between the Republic of Liberia and the African Development Fund (Mano River Union Road Development and Transport Facilitation Programme - MRU/RDTFP)	May 1, 2015	May 4, 2015
25.	An Act to ratify the Financing Agreement (Second Poverty Reduction Support Development Policy Financing) between Republic of Liberia and International Development Association	May 1, 2015	May 4, 2015

b) Bureau of Archives

The Bureau of Archives constitutes a key component of the Department of Legal Affairs. It is the depository for historic and valuable documents. The instruments include: Aborigine Deeds, Last Will and Testaments and other legal documents such as probated land deeds, lease agreements, articles of incorporation, etc. Notwithstanding, during the period under review, the Bureau of Archives began to transfer archival documents from Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Center for National Document and Records Agency (CNDRA)

The number of certified copies of archival documents issued to the public and their categories before transfer to CNDRA are:

No.	Nature of Document	Quantity
1.	Warranty Deed	98
2.	Public Land Sale Deed	18
3.	Administrator's Deed	2
4.	Executor's Deed	3
5.	Government Grant	2

6.	Aborigine's Land Grant	2
7.	Quit Claim Deed	3
8.	Sheriff Deed	1
9.	Certificate of Authentication	23
10.	Research Report	9
11.	Certificate of Non – Discovery	15
	TOTAL	176

c) Bureau of Passports and Visas

The Bureau of Passports & Visas encompasses the issuance of travel documents to all Liberians in keeping with the laws of the Republic of Liberia. During the reporting period (January to October 12, 2015), the Bureau rigorously vetted passport applicants. A total of 26,038 passports were printed. Total applications received included: (1) Home Office - 25,009, (2) Washington, D.C., USA - 502, (3) New York, NY, USA - 254, (4) Brussels, Belgium - 181 and (5) London, United Kingdom - 92.

Under the decentralization scheme, Passport Application Centers (PACs) were opened and operated at the Washington DC, New York and London Missions. Another PAC was opened in Europe at the Brussels Mission recently. In February, 2015, the Brussels PAC processed 190 applications. Out of 190 applications, 181 passports were issued. Additional PACs are expected to be established in selected areas of Africa and Asia.

In an effort to improve the quality of service and delivery of passports, the price of Liberian ECOWAS biometric passport was increased from US\$23.00 (Buckpress 18.55, GoL 4.45) to US\$50.00 (Buckpress 26.65 GoL 23.45). However, sales of passport at the overseas PACs dropped because the bank responsible for the collection of passport fees at the overseas PAC discontinued services with the GOL. A proposal for a new payment platform called GT Pay is being reviewed for consideration by the parties.

The below chart shows passports printed at the London, New York, Washington, DC, Brussels and Home Office Passport Application Centers.

Breakdown of Passports Printed Per PAC

No.	PAC Station	Total Number Printed
1	Home Office (Monrovia)	25,009
2	London (UK)	92
3	Washington D.C. (USA)	502
4	New York (USA)	254
5	Brussels (Belgium)	181

Online Payment System at Overseas PACs

- a) Sales of Liberian ECOWAS biometric passports at the overseas PACs (NY, DC, London and Brussels) have been greatly affected by the breakdown of the online payment system. This occurred when the bank contracted to collect passport fees for the overseas PAC, discontinued their services with the DC Mission.
- b) The proposal for a new payment platform called GT PAY is being reviewed by the parties.

FUNCTIONAL BUREAUS

1) Bureau of Public Affairs

The Bureau of Public Affairs is the information and media arm of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, charged with the responsibility to disseminate all public information including press releases and other public communications about the Ministry and its Foreign Policy. The Bureau, during the period under review, adequately provided effective and efficient public relations for the Ministry and all its foreign and diplomatic activities, which in many cases extended to the presidency and foreign missions.

Personnel

During the period, the Bureau of Public Affairs was supervised by Ambassador-at-Large Robert Y. Lormia, II from the month of October to the end of December while Mr. David K.B. Akoi acted as the Officer-in-Charge of the Bureau.

At the office staff level, the Bureau received an additional press officer, Mr. Alaskai Moore Johnson and photographer, Mr. Justine David.

1.	David K.B. Akoi	Officer-in-Charge
2.	<u>Alaskai Moore Johnson</u>	Senior Press Officer
3.	Olivia J. Swen	Press Officer
4.	Joan Tally	Research Analyst/Website Operator
5.	Dormuee Jackson	Secretary/Media Typesetter
6.	Milcolm Ledlum	Web Master
7.	Tarsha Jackson	Production Secretary
8.	Justine Y. Davis	Photographer
9.	Yvette N. Toe	File Clerk
10.	Beaulah Nyon	File Clerk
11.	McDonald Morris	Office Assistant

As part of its statutory duties, the Bureau furnished Liberia's Missions abroad with developments back home including news events. It has also been very responsive to specific requests from diplomatic and consular missions accredited near Monrovia for specific and particular information about Liberia and provided media guidance.

The Bureau was also active in the coverage of major international events attended by the Acting Foreign Minister and former Foreign Minister including the United Nations General Assembly, ECOWAS Extraordinary Sessions, and Ordinary and Ministerial Summits, the African Union (AU)'s activities held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and the Minister's official trips abroad.

Public Relations

The Bureau regularly disseminated press releases to electronic and print media on major events taking place at the Foreign Ministry as well as the ones taking place at the level of the presidency and ministerial events, among others. Also during the period, the Bureau's coverage included presidential proclamations & declarations, congratulatory, solidarity and condolence messages, and letters of credence ceremonies emitted by the president to friendly governments, multinational, international and regional organizations.

During the reporting period, Liberia celebrated its 168th Independence Anniversary with a variation and the president received several messages of congratulations in which the Bureau of Public Affairs issued official press releases to the effect.

2) Bureau of Inspectorate

The responsibility of the Office of Inspector General, as set forth in the Foreign Service Act of 1951 and supplemented in the Foreign Service Manual of 1982, is to "conduct independent and objective audits, inspections, reviews and investigations of missions' programs and operations". These processes include the assessment of management controls for effectiveness and efficiency staffing level, adequate representation, inspection of the Government of Liberia properties, review of revenue generation, remittances, banking activities, and the setting up of a uniform accounting system and functional internal control measures.

The assessment reports originating from the Bureau of Inspectorate provide assurance to the Ministry and the general public that Government resources are being utilized with transparency and accountability. There is also the assurance that appropriate management controls are being established where deficiencies exist or improved to provide proper bookkeeping and reporting of funds generated by the Missions and the use of funds provided by the Government of Liberia.

The Office, also when appropriate, shall receive complaints from foreign missions' staff and conduct on-the-spot investigations to resolve them. The Inspectorate is clothed with authority to suspend any diplomatic or consular officer except the chief of mission for gross misconduct.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Bureau of the Inspectorate, maintains and has oversight responsibility of twenty-five (25) diplomatic missions and two (2) consular posts.

Personnel

Mrs. Marie K. Coleman heads the Bureau of Inspectorate and is assisted by Mr. Mambu S. Sonie, Coordinator/Sr. Inspector. He's also assisted by Nathaniel B. Vah, Secretary and Ms. Mary Jean Wion.

Foreign Missions Inspected

The Bureau, during the period under review, successfully conducted assessment of Liberia's diplomatic missions in Europe: Embassy of Liberia near Paris, Embassy of Liberia near London, Embassy of Liberia near Brussels, the Liberian Consulate in Geneva, Switzerland, Embassy of Liberia near Conakry and Embassy of Liberia near Abidjan.

The Bureau of Inspectorate did an extensive report on recalled Foreign Service officers. This report summarized the recalled officers into the following categories:

1. Category A: In this category, it is noted that there are two (2) active Foreign Service officers who were recalled for re-assignment but not vetted and has received no payment up to date.
2. Category B: Within this category are 16 active Foreign Service officers who were recalled, vetted and received portion of their arrears for service rendered from 2003 to 2005.
3. Category C: This category has four active Foreign Service officers who were recalled, vetted and received full payment of arrears for service rendered from 2003 to 2005.
4. Category D: There are six active Foreign Service officers who were recalled, vetted and received partial and full payments of arrears for service rendered from 2003 to 2005 and are currently assigned to Home Office.
5. Category E: There are 31 inactive Foreign Service officers who were recalled, vetted and received partial and full payment of arrears for service rendered from 2003 to 2005.
6. Category F: In this category, there are 34 inactive Foreign Service officers who were recalled, not vetted and received no payment of arrears for service rendered from 2003-2005.
7. Category G: In this last and final category are the names of deceased Foreign Service officers whose documents were vetted and beneficiaries received partial payment of arrears for services rendered from 2003-2005.

In reference to the categories above, the following recommendations were made:

- That the incomplete payment attributed to the period of 2003-2005 be paid for vetted recalled Foreign Service officers immediately as the settlement of such arrears will alleviate the financial burden on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- That the issue of payment attributed to the period of 2006-2013 be reviewed with a discussion of possible settlement through negotiations. This should be done in conjunction with the Legal Department to obtain the most comprehensive and appropriate settlement; and
- That a decision be made as to whether recalled Foreign Service officers that have not been assigned be retained or retired.

LIST OF FOREIGN MISSIONS OF LIBERIA

No.	MISSION	HEAD
1.	Permanent Mission, UN	Ambassador Marjon Kamara
2.	Washington D.C.	Ambassador Jeremiah Sulunteh
3	Consulate General, NY	Hon. Rudolph Sherman/Consul General
4	Paris, France	Ambassador C. William Allen
5	Brussels, Belgium	Ambassador Isaac W. Nyenabo II,
6	London, England	Ambassador Rudolf P. Vonballmoos
7	Rome, Italy	Hon. Mohammed Sheriff/Charge d'Affairs
8	Berlin, Germany	Ambassador Ethel Davis
9	Beijing, China	Ambassador McKinley Thomas
10	Tokyo, Japan	Ambassador Younger Telewoda
11	Rabat, Morocco	Ambassador Edwin Sele
12	Cairo, Egypt	Ambassador Alexander H.N. Wallace, III
13	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Ambassador Vivienne T. Wreh
14	Pretoria, South Africa	Ambassador Lois T. Brutus
15	Abuja, Nigeria	Ambassador Al-Hassan Conteh
16	Accra, Ghana	Hon. Musu Rhule/Charge d'Affaires
17	Abidjan, Ivory Coast	Ambassador Johnny McClain
18	Consulate N'zerekore, Guinea	Hon. Duyan Morris/Consul General
19	Conakry, Guinea	Ambassador Krubo B. Kollie
20	Freetown, Sierra Leone	Ambassador Jarjar Kamara
21	Dakar, Senegal	Ambassador Brahim D. Kaba
22	Yaounde, Cameroon	Hon. Siaka Fahnbulleh/Charge d' Affairs
23	Kuwait, Kuwait	Ambassador Konah Blackett
24	Doha, Qatar	Ambassador Abraham Nyei
25	Geneva, Switzerland	Ambassador C. William Allen
26	Saudi Arabia	Ambassador Ibrahim Kaba
	Brazil	Pending

3) The Gabriel L. Dennis Foreign Service Institute

The Institute currently has eight staff members who are employees of the Ministry. Those concerns are:

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Qualification</u>
1.	Dr. Augustine Konneh	Director-General	PhD
2.	Mr. Mulbah G. Kawoi	Coordinator	Masters
3.	Rev. Abenego G. Tarr	Senior Desk Officer	Bsc.
4.	Mr. Seton Lorglor	Administrative Assistant	Bsc.
5.	Mr. David Onnoh	Librarian	High Sch. Dpl
6.	Mr. Thomas Duplay	Office Assistant	College Student
7.	Miss Ladia Johnson	Financial Analyst	BBA
8.	Mr. Jester Saydenuh	Finance Officer	BBA

Staff members who are working but not on payroll include:

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Qualification</u>
1.	Mr. John S.M. Yormie	Masters
2.	Mr. Thomas Brima III	BBA
3.	Miss Natalynn A.K. Karpheh	Sr. Student UL
4.	Miss Melvina Wheagar	AA

List of Lecturers at the Foreign Service Institute

No.	Lecturers	Courses
1.	Ambassador George W. Wallace, Jr. Advisor to the President on Foreign Affairs	Introduction to Diplomacy & Diplomatic Practices
2.	Ambassador Emmett Kennedy Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Protocol, Etiquette & Ceremony
3.	Dr. Laurence Bropleh Former Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism	International & Regional Organizations: UN, EU, AU, MRU, ECOWAS, etc.
4.	Professor Monie R. Captan Former Minister of Foreign Affairs	Elements of International Relations
5.	Ambassador Robert Y. Lormia, II Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Public Diplomacy
6.	Dr. Anthony L. Hena KAICT	Economic & Development Diplomacy
7.	Professor James Wolo Executive Consultant, Media 2000; Former Director-General, Liberia Broadcasting System	English for Diplomats
8.	Dr. Augustine Konneh Director-General, Foreign Service Institute	Liberia Diplomatic History & Foreign Policy since 1847
9.	Cllr. Boakai Kanneh	Law and Consular Relations

	Deputy Minister for Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
10.	Rev. J. Emmanuel Z. Bowier Former Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism	Leadership Development
11.	Honorable Wede Elliott Brownell, PhD Deputy Minister for Administration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Embassy Financial Management & Reporting
12.	Mr. Kesselee Kanneh Lecturer	Spanish
13.	Mrs. Paula L. Kendor Lecturer	French
14.	Attorney-at-Law Alpha E. Blamah Assistant Director for Operations, National Security Agency	Security Awareness & Consciousness
15.	Mr. Mulbah G. Kawoi	Course Coordinator

Achievements

The Institute on January 7, 2014 started classes with 45 students who successfully went through thorough evaluation; a standard that was set by the Director-General and members of the faculty.

Following the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease in March of 2014, the Institute was forced to close its academic programs like other institutions in and around the country and got engaged in outreach programs in response to the national call from the Government. The Institute through its students donated several Ebola relief materials to two major ETU treatment centers. The Centers includes: the JFK ETU and the Bomi County ETU. Items donated included six (6) cartons of women sanitary pads, two (2) bales of bed sheets, two bales of T shirts, two bales of short trousers, six cartoons of quilts, one double bag of slippers, 12 sacks of energy drinks, and 24 sacks of mineral water.

The Resumption of Classes

After a successful fight against the Ebola Virus Disease, the Ministry of Education ordered that all academic institutions should reopen on February 2nd 2015, which was adhered to by the institute. The institute resumed on scheduled with 38 students returning to class. Normal classes ran up to June 30th 2015.

As part of its curriculum, the institute was able to conduct series of guest lectures and climaxed it with an Ambassadorial Lectures Series. Ambassador E. Sumo Jones was honored during the year for his distinguished service to the country. The below listed distinguished personalities served as guest lecturers at the institute on various topics that are relevant to the field of diplomacy.

They included:

1. Ambassador Zhang Yue (Ambassador of China to Liberia)
2. Ambassador D. McKinley Thomas (Liberia's Ambassador to China)
3. Ambassador Marcus Kofa (Senior Ambassador- at-Large)
4. Ambassador Vivian Wreh (Liberia Ambassador to Ethiopia)
5. Madam Catherine Kashue (Minister Consular, Beijing, China)

6. Honorary Consul Mr. Upjit Singh Sachdewa (Honorary Consul General of India in Liberia)
7. Mr. William Ledlum (Former Assistant Minister for Public Affairs).

Respective to the Ambassadorial Lectures Series, the following personalities officiated:

1. Ambassador Harrison Oluwatoyin Solaja, Guest Speaker, (Special Representative of the AU to Liberia). The Lecture was held on Wednesday, August 26, 2015
2. Honoree: Ambassador E. Sumo Jones (Liberia's former Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea)
3. Commencement Speaker: Dr. Joseph N. Boakai (Vice President of Liberia)

At the end of the program held on Friday, August 28, 2015, 37 students graduated with 13 being employees of the Ministry, while 24 were outsiders.

During the period under review, the FSI undertook the following:

Signed Memoranda of Understanding:

Consistent with the Institute's 2014 Annual Report, she has established relationships with other foreign diplomatic institutions. Those institutions in question include:

- The Diplomacy Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey. The memorandum of understanding was signed on May 13, 2014 in the City of Ankara by Mr. Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan on behalf of the Gabriel L. Dennis Foreign Service Institute while Prof. Dr. Ahmet Davutoglu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey signed on behalf of the Diplomacy Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey. The memorandum was signed for the purpose of developing mutually beneficial cooperation for training in the field of diplomacy and the exchange of information on international law, diplomatic law and other academic disciplines that are relevant for the practice of diplomacy and international relations, political, economic, cultural and financial affairs.
- An agreement was also reached between the Government of the Republic of Liberia and the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Abuja on July 15, 2014, for the purpose of training Liberia's Foreign Service Officers at the Nigerian Foreign Service Academy. The agreement seeks to provide training in specific areas relating to international studies such as:
 - Master's degree in International Relations and Strategic Studies (MISS) at the University of Lagos;
 - Training in professional diplomacy;
 - Training in ICT which has become invaluable to the conduct of diplomacy in the 21st century; and
 - Training in UN languages: English, French, Spanish, Chinese and in Arabic.

The classroom has been modernized and equipped with the following items:

- 47 tables
- 55 chairs
- 1 electronic projector screen

- 1 dell projector
- 1 dell laptop and
- Sliding windows

Nevertheless there remain certain challenges that need attention:

- The placement of trainees into the Foreign Service, but right now several recommendations from the Institute is under consideration by the Acting Minister, Hon. B. Elias Shoniyin.
- The inadequacy of budgetary allotment to enable the Institute cater to its development need and hire additional competent instructional staff.
- Implementation of certain memoranda of understanding particularly, that which relates to the exchange of students and faculty.

B. LIBERIA'S DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS ABROAD

AFRICAN MISSIONS

a) Embassy of the Republic of Liberia – Freetown, Sierra Leone

The Embassy of the Republic of Liberia in Freetown continues to be headed by Ambassador Jarjar M. Kamara as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. He is assisted in administering the affairs of the Embassy by six diplomatic staffers: Madam Geraldine Bass Golokeh, Minister Counselor; Mr. Samuel T. Gbeintor, Commercial Counselor; Mr. Richard A. Garnet, Economic Counselor (Pro-Bono); Mr. Roland Nah, Second Secretary/Vice Consul and Mr. Azikiwe Moses DeShield, Third Secretary.

Embassy Affairs

The Ambassador reports that Government owns one property in Freetown, which is the building housing the Chancery. This building was bought in the early 1960s from the late Honorable Dr. John Karefa Smart. The Embassy reports that the condition of the building is in a dilapidated state, impeding the smooth operation of its daily functions. The Ambassador therefore recommends the need for Government to seriously consider the construction of a new building for the Chancery, considering that the Government of Sierra Leone, through its Ministry of Lands and Mines, has requested all Diplomatic/Consular Missions accredited to that country's capital to consider the relocation of their respective Embassies /Missions to a new location in Gloucester, Freetown, for which the Government of Sierra Leone has already allocated to the Embassy of Liberia 6.4 acres of land in the Gloucester area. However, up to this reporting period, the land allocated has neither been surveyed nor a land deed given to the Embassy.

The Embassy continues to remain in close contact with various Liberian communities in Sierra Leone, including those having refugee status through their leaders, chiefs and executive committees. Cordial working relations between the Embassy and the Liberian communities continue to exist and in some cases, assistance to Liberian refugees desirous of returning to Liberia were facilitated through appeals to the International Migration Organization (IMO) by the Embassy. However, due to the outbreak

of the Ebola epidemic in Sierra Leone and Liberia, the repatriation exercise of Liberians desirous of returning home was halted for 297 Liberian refugees.

The Ambassador reports that the Consular Section at the Mission continues to perform its statutory duties and activities such as: issuing visas, authenticating notaries and quasi legal documents, issuing laissez-passers to Liberian citizens wishing to return home, protecting Liberian citizens and their properties in the Republic of Sierra Leone.

On September 10, 2015, Ambassador Jarjar M. Kamara presented his Letters of Credence to the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma at an official ceremony at State House in Freetown. During the credential presentation ceremony, Ambassador Kamara conveyed to President Koroma, fraternal greetings and best wishes from Her Excellency Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia and also extended, through President Koroma, the kind sentiments and best wishes from the Government and people of Liberia to the Government and people of Sierra Leone.

He emphasized that Liberia-Sierra Leone relations was characterized by mutual respect for each other's sovereignty, maintenance of regional and global peace and security, while sharing similar views at regional and international meetings. He recounted the long fraternal relations between the two countries and assured the President of Sierra Leone of his commitment to continue strengthening the bilateral relations between Liberia and Sierra Leone during his tour of duty in the Republic of Sierra Leone.

Liberia-Sierra Leone Relations

Ambassador Jajar M Kamara reports that, during the period under review, normal relations between the Republic of Liberia and its sister Republic of Sierra Leone continues to be very cordial. Public feeling in Freetown has portrayed a high level of satisfaction regarding the working relations between President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and President Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma in their relentless efforts to fight the Ebola Virus Disease in the Mano River basin.

Ambassador Kamara also reports that during the period under review, the Embassy enjoyed cordial and fruitful working relations with the Government of the Republic of Sierra Leone, especially the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The Mission satisfactorily represented the Liberian Government at all functions hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and other government institutions of Sierra Leone. The Embassy was also in close contact with the Liberian communities and the diplomatic and consular corps in Freetown and participated fully in all activities of the corps, especially the African Diplomatic Group. The Embassy continued to promote the cordial and fraternal relations between the Government and people of Liberia and the Government and people of Sierra Leone.

The Ambassador observed that the official borders of the Mano River Union countries which were closed because of the Ebola Virus Disease were reopened for cross border trading, which flourished astrologically without hindrance.

Sierra Leone's Political Situation

Ambassador Kamara reports that the Sierra Leonean Government is embarking upon the construction of a major highway in Sierra Leone which will lead to increase economic activities and free movement of goods and people via road network between Sierra Leone and Liberia. The Bo-Gendema Road Project, which is expected to commence soon, is funded by the European Union in the amount of €112 million (euros).

b) Embassy of the Republic of Liberia – Yaounde, Cameroon

Since the end of the assignment of Ambassador Carlton A.Karpeh, this Mission has been headed by a Chargé d'Affaires in person of Mr. Siaka G.Fahnbulleh. He is being assisted by the following: Mr. Dan S. Toby, Archivist; Mr. Solomon W.Karnga, Protocol Officer/Visa Clerk; Mr. Japhet Ileme Boana, Secretary, Ms Florence E. Johnson, Receptionist; Mr. Valentine F. Kekunga, Chauffeur; Mr Timothee D'Jongace, Security/Gardener/Janitor.

Embassy Affairs

The Chargé d'Affaires reports that his Mission has faced some operational difficulties during the 2014/2015 fiscal period due to limited budgetary appropriation as a result of Government's own financial constraints. Despite these challenges, the Mission upgraded its communication system which has enabled it to facilitate communication between the Embassy and the Home Office in Monrovia as well as between it and the Ministry of External Relations of the Republic of Cameroon.

During the reporting period, the Chargé d'Affaires indicates that the Chancery in Yaounde which was leased in May 1993 still has arrears dating back to the period to the Liberian civil crisis and that Government's indebtedness for the rental arrears on the building stands at US\$140,435.94. Meanwhile, in 2014, the landlord of the building through his lawyer informed the Embassy that the total amount of indebtedness stands as US\$207,898.93 as of 2011.

The Chargé d'Affaires reports that the physical condition of the Chancery is still deplorable despite some level of face lift conducted since 2012. Nevertheless, it is one of the less expensive in terms of rental cost, considering where it is located in the Bastos locality, which is in a diplomatic enclave considered as secured zone.

However, despite the handicaps, the financial condition of the Embassy received a boost during the period under review, with the Mission receiving some financial allocations which helped to relieve some of the financial problems faced by the Mission.

During the period under review, the Consular Section reported the issuance of 42 visas in various categories: 35 ordinary, 3 diplomatic, and 4 officials. Three visas were issued on gratis; 10 identifications cards, and two laissez-passers were also issued. The Embassy maintained its consular fee account with the ECOBANK Cameroon SA.

With reference to the Ministry's Circular Notice to all of its diplomatic/consular missions to mobilize financial and material assistance for the fight against the Ebola Virus, the Charge d'Affaires reports that the

Embassy took necessary steps in engaging the international community based in Cameroon and the Cameroonian Government to provide humanitarian assistance to foster the fight against the Ebola Virus. In implementing this task, the Embassy took the initiative of opening a relief account with ECOBANK-Cameroon, strictly for relief purposes.

Liberia-Cameroon Relations

Chargé d’Affaires Siaka G. Fahnbulleh reports that he enjoyed excellent cordial working relations with the Ministry of External Relations and other government agencies of the Republic of Cameroon, but noted that as a consequence of Ebola the Cameroonian Government joined other countries in placing travel ban on Liberian nationals from entering Cameroon. This resulted into seven Liberian students being denied entry into Cameroon at Yaoundé International Airport.

In response to the Ministry’s directive to its Heads of Mission to pursue active diplomatic engagements in their respective jurisdictions for the lifting of travel restriction on Liberia, the Charge d’Affaires reports that the Embassy took necessary steps in engaging relevant authorities within the Cameroonian Government for the lifting of travel restrictions. Efforts made by the Embassy proved fruitful, with the Government of Cameroon mandating lifting the travel restrictions placed on countries declared free of the Ebola epidemic.

During the period under review, Mr. Fahnbulleh reports that the 7th Session of the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Yaounde from July 21-23, 2015, attended by a Liberian delegation headed by Mr. Varney A. Sirleaf, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs for Administration. Also, another Liberian Government delegation, headed by Dr. Jallah A. Babou, Chairperson of the Law Reform Commission, and including Attorney Fanta D. Conde Barclay, Legal Counsel, Law Reform Commission visited Cameroon from July 27-30, 2015 and held discussions with legal and traditional authorities in pursuit of the Law Reform Commission’s mandate to bridge the gap between the customary legal system and the statutory legal system of Liberia. The delegation had the opportunity of holding series of constructive meetings with the Ministries of Justice, External Relations, as well as traditional chiefs of the Republic of Cameroon.

Response to the appeal for humanitarian assistance during the fight against the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), the Charge d’Affaires noted in his report, was very fruitful. The diplomatic community as well as international organizations responded through their respective countries’ Missions near Monrovia. The African Group of Ambassadors and the Diplomatic Corps of Cameroon made two separate symbolic donations, amounting to 3 million Francs CFA. A few private individuals including staff of the Embassy in Yaoundé also made some token contributions in support of the fight against Ebola.

Cameroon’s Political Situation

During the period under review, Chargé d’Affaires Fahnbulleh reports that for nearly two years, attacks on Cameroonian territories was staged by the militant group, Boko Haram, leading to several atrocities against civilians including kidnapping of foreign nationals of French, Italian, German and Chinese nationalities. The northern region of Cameroon, bordering the Federal Republic of Nigeria, was the epic center of these attacks by the militants.

A summit to address this situation was convened by the Presidents of Gabon, Chad, Congo, Equatorial

Guinea, and Cameroon. The Transitional President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola and Burundi were represented by their Ministers of External Relations and International Cooperation. Also in attendance was the Special Representative of the United Nations-Secretary General; the Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, as well the Secretaries-General of the ECCAS/ECOWAS.

c) Embassy of the Republic of Liberia - Rabat, Morocco

Liberia's Embassy in Rabat is headed by Ambassador Edwin Sele, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary; while Mr. Morieba Sanoe serves as First Secretary.

Embassy Affairs

The Ambassador reports that the Consular Section performed such functions as issuing visas, authenticating documents, laissez-passers, assisting Liberians who are in difficulties, as well as working closely with the International Organization for Migration (IMO) in identifying, documenting and voluntarily repatriating Liberian citizens wishing to return home. In this connection, the Consular Section issued 34 laissez-passers on gratis to Liberia nationals wishing to return home under the auspices of the IMO in Rabat. Also, 44 visas were issued during the reporting period.

During the period under review, Ambassador Sele reports that the scholarship program initiated by the Kingdom of Morocco enrolled several Liberian students in various disciplines including the fields of Information Technology, Medicine, Civil Aviation and Engineering. Seventeen Liberian students have received degrees including three (3) medical doctors from the program.

In view of the seriousness Government placed on the Moroccan Government scholarship program and executing additional role it poses on the Embassy, the Ministry of Education, seconded to the Embassy an education counselor to help address the many challenges faced by Liberian students in Rabat. The transfer of budgetary expenses for the education counselor has not been met by the Ministry of Education according to the Ambassador.

He further reports that the Embassy, student body and the entire Liberian community were shocked by the sudden death of one of the Liberian students, the late Fred G. Wonasue (26), which sad event occurred on March 1, 2015. According to the autopsy conducted on the student's remains, he died from "Myocardial Infection" (Cardiac Arrest). The deceased brother, Mr. David C. Wonasue and the education counselor, Mr. Momoh Musa Sheriff, accompanied his remains to Liberia. The Ambassador reports that the Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation (AMC) took responsibility to underwrite the cost of transportation of the late Wonasue's body to Liberia and also underwrote the cost associated with his burial.

Liberia-Moroccan Relations

Ambassador Edwin Sele reports that relations between the Kingdom of Morocco and Liberia continued to improve remarkably. Liberia-Morocco relations picked up in the early 1960s, when the two countries championed the cause of the African liberation struggle. It was through the concerted efforts of the Monrovia and Casablanca Groups which gave birth to the erstwhile continental body, the Organization of

African Unity (OAU) in May 1963, now the African Union (AU). Since then, the two countries have collaborated on many issues, including African and world affairs.

The Ambassador, in his report, observed that the mutual ties between the two countries have produced eleven bilateral cooperation agreements in various fields including economics, science, education, agriculture, aviation, energy, tourism, sports and culture, amongst others.

During the period under review, the Ambassador noted with extreme satisfaction the outstanding act of solidarity with Liberia shown by Morocco when the Kingdom chose not to disrupt its national airline, Royal Air Maroc's travel to Liberia during the Ebola crisis. This gesture was followed by the donation by the Moroccan Government of humanitarian assistance including medical personal protective equipment (PPEs). As a show of appreciation of these Moroccan gestures, President Sirleaf was pleased to decorate the CEO of Royal Air Maroc with one of Liberia's highest honors in recognition of the Moroccan peoples' solidarity.

The Ambassador has noted in his report that there is a proposal to hold a Joint Commission Meeting in Rabat involving the two governments. He further noted that while the Moroccan side has been taking steps for the convening of said meeting, unfortunately the Liberian side has been less forthcoming owing to lack of decisions on the questions of double-taxation and date scheduling problems. He recommends that urgent steps be taken in moving forward with the holding of this Joint Commission Meeting, as it is the outcome of this meeting that the basic parameters of Liberia-Moroccan relations would be determined with the framework of South-South Cooperation.

The Ambassador also believes such a meeting will outline several opportunities for mutual cooperation including the waiver of issuance of visas for holders of diplomatic, official and service passports from the two countries.

Another bright side of the evolving Liberia-Moroccan partnership is in the area of civil aviation. In April 2011, Air Services Agreement was signed between the two governments, but only ratified by the Moroccan Government. The Ambassador recommends, in his report, that the Liberian Government urgently considers ratifying that Agreement as well.

Pursuant to Morocco's decision not to disrupt its airline travels to Liberia during the Ebola crisis, Morocco has become a frequent travel route for Liberians. For instance, during the reporting period, Royal Air Maroc's travels to Liberia increased from two to four times a week, and is expected to further increase during 2016. Moreover, the Royal Air Maroc, which travels between New York and Casablanca with connecting flights to Monrovia, have become a major travel route for Liberians.

Morocco's Economic and Political Situations

During the period under review, Ambassador Sele reports that King Mohammed VI remained the ultimate arbiter of power. The Monarch continues to stir the over all policy of the country, whilst promoting modest political and economic reforms. GDP growth was recorded at 4.6 percent in 2015, driven by strong activity in manufacturing and service industries.

At the same time, Morocco's political landscape has been relatively stable in the past decades and evolved smoothly through the Arab Spring. Morocco engaged in a program of wide-ranging reforms with

the adoption of a new constitution in 2011, which set the basis for a more open and democratic society, increased decentralization, and the building of modern institutions.

The current coalition government, led by the moderate Islamist party, Party for Justice and Development (PJD), is continuing to roll out constitutional reforms and taking bold steps to reduce the fiscal deficit through the phasing out of fossil fuel subsidies.

During the period under review, the Ambassador reports that the country held the much-awaited regional and local elections in September 2015 that defined a new political map where two major political parties emerged: the ruling PJD and opposition party, Party for Authenticity and Modernity (PAM). While the latter dominated the leadership of the country's region, PJD is the clear winner in the management of Morocco's largest cities. This new share of political power, will redefine the government's coalition that will emerge from 2016's legislative elections.

It should be noted that after a mixed economic performance in 2014, the Moroccan economy picked up in 2015. Thanks to an exceptional 2014/2015 agricultural season. Inflation was kept two percent, reflecting the continued prudent monetary policy and fall in international commodity prices. The unemployment rate has declined to 9.3 percent nationally but remained close to 40 percent and 20 percent among the urban young and educated, respectively.

Moreover, continued progress toward fiscal consolidation and improvement in external indicators underscored Morocco's commitment to preserve macroeconomic stability. For the third year in a row, Morocco reduced its fiscal deficit in 2015 to 4.6 percent of GDP, and began stabilizing the central government's debt to around 66 percent of GDP. Improvements at the external front were more significant in the reporting period, the Ambassador noted.

The Ambassador also reports that generally, Morocco's outlook continues to hinge on the pursuit of sound macroeconomic policies and acceleration of structural reforms. With a return to normal rainfall conditions in 2015/2016, overall GDP may likely improve in 2016. The 2016 Finance Law currently under preparation should confirm the authorities' resolution to solidify the tax base, rein in expenditures and further reduce the deficit to 3.7 percent of GDP in line with the Government's commitment to achieve the three percent of GDP target by 2017. Apparently, Morocco continues to face the key challenge of leveraging its political stability, proximity to Europe, and relative investment attractiveness into a decisive edge for rapid and inclusive economic growth.

It is noteworthy to note from the Ambassador's report that a new World Bank Group Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for Morocco for 2014-2017 was presented to the Board on April 29, 2014. The strategy was drawn from extensive consultations with representatives of government, civil society, private sector, and other key development stakeholders. The new framework revolves around three strategic result areas: promoting competitive and inclusive growth; building a green and resilient future; and strengthening governance and institutions for improved service delivery to all citizens.

As conceived, under the new CPS, the Bank is scaling up its support Morocco, with an indicative IBRD lending program increasing from US\$600 million a year to US\$1 billion a year over the CPS four-year period. The CPS program is aimed at stepping up and consolidating Bank Group engagement around multi-sector issues, such as economic competitiveness, improved quality of public services, good

governance, social protection and subsidy reform, and strengthening inclusion and voice for women and youth.

While Development Policy Loans (DPLs) will continue to be defining component of the lending program in Morocco given the maturity of reform programs in several areas such as governance, competitiveness, financial sector, employment or green growth, the Bank will also continue to implement important sector-specific investment programs, particularly in water and sanitation, energy, roads and agriculture projects.

It should be noted that the economic and political situation of Morocco can only be classified as good. The Kingdom is moving faster ahead of other developing African nations due to its decentralization policy and a strong economic program. The year 2016 will be seen as a turning point in the political arena, as legislative elections during the second quarter of the year is due to take place. The PJD and other political parties will be looking forward to hold the majority in parliament in order to continue the King's program of rapid economic development, political maturity and stability through democratic means in the country.

The Question of Western Sahara

It should be recalled that the Western Sahara, a territory which borders Morocco, Algeria and Mauritania in North Africa, fell under Spanish rule in 1884. The native Sahrawis formed an Algeria-backed rebel national liberation movement called the Polisario Front in 1973. Morocco annexed the territory during the "Green March or Marche Vert" in November 1975 and Spain backed out. The Polisario Front, which declared the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic a year later, led a guerrilla war against Moroccan forces until a U.N.-brokered ceasefire was signed in 1991.

For the past 40 years the Moroccan Government has controlled a vast majority of economic activities in the Western Sahara. Although the dry region lacks sufficient rainfall for sustainable agriculture, the Western Sahara is rich in fisheries, phosphates and possibly offshore oil. The Moroccan Government has enjoyed fishing and oil exploration contracts and has spent millions of dollars on infrastructural development in the territory.

King Mohammed VI is on record to refer to the dispute as an artificial conflict and said "the referendum project as foreseen in the U.N. plan is null because it's inapplicable". Morocco instead proposed a Plan in 2006 for the autonomy of Western Sahara that would allow the Sahrawi people to self-government, but remain under Moroccan sovereignty. However, the Polisario has fiercely demanded a referendum for complete independence.

The Ambassador noted in his report that politically, the Western Sahara question is seen as a unifying issue within Morocco. Political commentators, according to Ambassador Sele, worry that splitting it would undermine the Monarchy and threaten a pillar of stability in a volatile region. Polisario's socialist rhetoric and Algerian ties have not won them friends in the west either. For the west, "the status quo is much more tolerable than the frightening future that might result from prioritizing a solution over stability".

The Ambassador believes Morocco's own position on Western Sahara stresses this risk. It has proposed an autonomy plan that would give the Saharawi limited self-government but not independence. Officials in Rabat, according to the Ambassador, insist this is for the best: An independent but weak new State, they say, would be vulnerable to extremists and jihadis.

In light of the huge Moroccan investments in the infrastructures of Western Sahara, and as buttressed by its ongoing policy of integration, it is inconceivable that Morocco will allow this territory to breakaway as an independent state.

d) Embassy of the Republic of Liberia – Cairo, Egypt

The Liberian Embassy near Cairo is headed by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Alexander N. Wallace. He is being assisted by Dusty Hansford, Minister Plenipotentiary; while Mohammed A. Nyei serves as First Secretary/Consul, among others.

Embassy Affairs

The Ambassador reports that the Consular Section of the Embassy, during the period under review, rendered services to both Liberian citizens and foreign nationals, in accordance with regulations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Consular services provided to Liberian citizens included: the issuance of letters of recommendation and confirmation of citizenship; assistance to Liberian students studying in Egyptian Universities, including attestation of education certificates, etc; issuance of laissez-passers (temporary travel documents) to facilitate travel of Liberians with complaints of lost passports; as well as authentication and issuance of notary certificates for Liberian-registered overseas companies, etc.

The Ambassador reports that there are about 37 Liberian students studying in Egypt as beneficiaries of Liberia-Egypt bilateral scholarship scheme. Two representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Edmond Smart from the information, communication and technology (ICT) department and Mr. Victor Scott from the Bureau of International Cooperation and Economic Integration participated in Trade Data Information Analysis Seminar at the Egyptian Foreign Trade Training Center in Cairo from October 11-22, 2015 under the sponsorship of the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development.

Liberia-Egypt Relations

Ambassador Alexander N. Wallace reports that there continues to exist the most cordial and sisterly relationship between Liberia and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

During the period under review, the Liberian Embassy in Egypt enjoyed harmonious working relations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the Egyptian Government. Egypt remains committed to assist Liberia through the Egyptian Technical Fund for Africa with various training programs.

The Ambassador in his reporting drew attention to the closure of the Liberian Consulate in Alexandria since 2007. He recommends that the Consulate be reopened to service and monitor Liberian registered vessels calling at the active seaport of Alexandria and attend to those consular matters emanating out of Alexandria, which would be an economic advantage to the Government of Liberia.

Egypt's Political Situation

During the period under review, Egyptian politics were subject to unique circumstances and often defied simple classification in terms of the political spectrum. By its constitution, Egypt has a multi-party system, and there are currently over 100 registered political parties in the country, with most of the parties'

orientations based on secular, democratic or liberal views. Groups are sometimes associated with the political left or right, especially in international circles, according to their stance on issues.

The Ambassador reports that Egypt's economic growth has been moderate, albeit insufficient to absorb the rapidly growing population and labor force, since the revolutions from 2011 to 2013. The economic outlook for 2015 is cautiously optimistic in the wake of important ongoing reforms. The successful outcome of Egypt's Economic Development Conference in March and the expansion of the Suez Canal ensure a more positive economic outcome.

The continuing growth is boosted by prospects of political stability, expansion of the Suez Canal and improved business sentiment resulting from major reforms. Yet economic recovery remains fragile due to the high inflation rate estimated at 10.1 percent in FY 2013/2014; ii) a budget still projected to show a deficit of 11 percent of GDP in FY 2014/2015; iii) the country's high outstanding public debt to GDP ratio, up to 97 percent in June 2014 from 94 percent a year earlier; and iv) a rising unemployment rate reaching 13.3 percent in 2013 from 9 percent in June 2010. The economic recovery will depend on continued reform efforts.

Growth is being driven by the manufacturing sector, despite energy shortages and reduction in the energy-subsidy scheme. The key development challenges facing the government will be reducing high inflation and youth unemployment, improving energy management, dealing with structural fiscal deficit and resolving other public debt issues that have not been successfully tackled despite an increase of the fiscal revenue from a widened tax base and subsidy reforms.

e) Embassy of the Republic of Liberia – Dakar, Senegal

The Embassy is being supervised by Minister Plenipotentiary, Ms Mary Ann Fossung, who serves as Charge d'Affaires a.i. She assumed the post subsequent to the posting and transfer of H.E. Ambassador Dr. Brahim D. Kaba, to the Liberian Embassy in Saudi Arabia, as Ambassador. Ambassador Kaba served at the Mission in Dakar, from December, 2012 to May, 2015. Diplomatic staff at the Embassy includes Mr. Philip Johnson, as Second Secretary/Vice Consul.

Embassy Affairs

During the period under review, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. Fossung reports that the Embassy carried out initiatives to attract foreign investors from Senegal, Gambia, Cape Verde and Mauritania to Liberia.

Madam Fossung reports that the consular section of the Embassy, during the period under review, effectively performed its statutory role by issuing visas to foreigners traveling to Liberia, issuing consular cars, laissez-passers to Liberia citizens, authenticating Liberian public documents, issuing affidavits of birth, guardianship, nationality, marriage certificates, certificates of good conduct, as well as consular mortuary corticated and reporting deaths of Liberians residing in Senegal.

Liberia-Senegal Relations

The Chargé d' Affaires a.i. reports that relations between the Republic of Senegal and Liberia remain firm and cordial. Bilateral relations continue to be wide-ranging with several high-level visits contributing to the

development and strengthening of relations between both countries.

Senegal's Political and Economic Situation

During the period under review, Chargé d'Affaires Fossung reports that Senegal is one of the most stable countries in Africa, and has considerably strengthened its democratic institutions since its independence from France in 1960. Senegal has had three peaceful political transitions with four Presidents: Leopold Sedar Sengor (1960-1980) Abdou Diouf (1981-2000), Abdoulaye Wade (2000-2012), and March 2012, Macky Sall, the present incumbent.

The next presidential election is expected in 2017. However, President Sall has planned to propose a referendum in 2016 to shorten his term from seven to five years. If the change is adopted, a presidential election will be organized in 2017.

Since his election in 2012, President Sall has focused on reforming Senegal's public administration and civil service and maintaining peace in the Casamance region.

With its limited resources, Senegal is struggling to find ways of developing its economy. However, its political stability and strategic coastal location serve as major assets. President Macky Sall has launched his Emergent Senegal Plan (PSE) worth an estimated US\$20 billion with the aim to make it an emerging economy by 2035, by investing in farming, infrastructure and tourism. The Government hopes to double the national growth rate - barely 3.5 percent at present - by 2017.

President Macky Stall Elected Chairman of ECOWAS

The President, H.E. Macky Sall was elected during the period under review as the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). He took over from Ghana's President, John Dramani Mahama who held the position for two terms.

Since his election, President Mackey Sall, has presided over several summits in Dakar geared towards restoration of peace in Guinea Bissau, Burkina Faso and other trouble spots in the sub-region. Under his chairmanship, ECOWAS has been proactive in seeking to maintain the peace and security in the sub-region.

f) Embassy of the Republic of Liberia – Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

The Embassy of the Republic of Liberia in Côte d'Ivoire is concurrently accredited to the Republic of Niger and the Republic of Bukina Faso. The Mission is headed by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Johnny A. McClain. Diplomatic staffers include: Mr. Morris Karneh, Minister Counselor; Mr. John Jallah, First Secretary/Consul; Mr. David Fromayan, First Secretary/Political Affairs Economic Development and Mr. Tom S. Koitee, Sr., Second Secretary/Vice Consul, among others.

Embassy Affairs

Ambassador Johnny A. McClain, who heads the Liberian Embassy in Côte d'Ivoire, during the period under review, became ill and was flown to the United States for treatment. Mr. Mohammed B.O.S.

Kenneth, who served as Minister Counselor at the Liberian Embassy in the People's Republic of China, and recalled for re-assignment, was appointed to serve as Chargé d'Affaires a.i. at the Mission in Abidjan on December 10, 2105 pending the return of Ambassador McClain.

During this reporting period, the consular section, which coordinates consular activities of the Embassy in providing services to Liberians living in Abidjan and surrounding provinces, continues to ensure that Liberians residing in that country's capital abide by immigration regulations and update their status with the consular section.

Notwithstanding, the consular section has been faced with challenges in exercising its statutory functions at the Embassy due to financial constraints as many Liberian refugees and non refugees constantly visit the Embassy with requests for financial assistance, ranging from medical treatments, burial arrangements or transportation fares, to return to Liberia.

Liberia - Côte d'Ivoire Relations

The Chargé d'Affaires a.i. reports that Liberian-Ivorian relations remained solid and firm. The Embassy participated in several ECOWAS conferences in Abidjan, aimed at promoting peace and social cohesion, especially along the 700-kilometer dense forest between the two countries. In the wake of the border skirmishes which led to the closure of the Liberian side of the border, the Liberian Government announced its desire to maintain excellent relations with the Ivory Coast.

Ivory Coast's Political Situation

The Chargé d'Affaires a.i. reports that the October 25, 2015 presidential elections in Côte d'Ivoire was very peaceful, transparent, and inclusive. Sixty percent of registered voters cast their ballots. The incumbent, President Allassane Quattara, had a commanding lead in the polls resulting in the acknowledgment of defeat by the opposition.

g) Embassy of the Republic of Liberia – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The Embassy of Liberia in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is accredited concurrently to the Republics of Kenya, Uganda, Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania. Government plans to include the accreditation of Burundi and Rwanda to the Embassy in Addis Ababa. The Embassy is being headed by Madam Vivian Titi Wreh as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. Diplomatic officers at the Mission include: Mr. Moniba Anamana Fofana, First Secretary/Counselor; Mr. Gotomo Ruben Anderson, First Secretary/Consul; and Tody Muna Wallace, Second Secretary/Vice Consul, among others.

Embassy Affairs

During the period under review, Ambassador Wreh reports that government took concrete steps aimed at acquiring the property which the Embassy has been operating and had occupied since 1959 by dispatching a negotiation team to Addis Ababa, headed Deputy Foreign Minister for Administration, Dr. Wede Elliot Brownell and Senior Ambassador-at-Large, Ambassador Marcus Kofa Sr., to negotiate with the Ethiopian Government for the purchase of the property. Accordingly an amount of US\$187,000.00 was paid to the Government of Ethiopia by the Liberian Government as cost for the building on the

property for which a sales agreement was consummated thereby ceding the property to the Government of Liberia as its own.

Liberia-Ethiopia Relations

From the Mission in Addis Ababa, it is reported that relations between the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Republic of Liberia continues to be cordial and harmonious.

In solidarity to countries affected by the Ebola virus, the Ethiopia Government made financial assistance to the African Union (AU) efforts and provided 250 of its nationals who were trained health workers to serve as volunteers to the African Union Support for the fight against the Ebola Outbreak Mission (AUSAWA), deployed to the three affected countries. The volunteers were part of the African Union Support to the Ebola Outbreak called the ASEOWA Mission.

Liberia-AU Relations

During the reporting period, Government of Liberia made full settlement of Liberia's assessed contribution to the African Union in amount of US\$55,217.86 which represents 0.42 percent of the total budget assessed to Member States.

h) Embassy of the Republic of Liberia – Abuja, Nigeria

Ambassador Dr. Al Hassan Conteh continues to head the Liberian Mission in Abuja as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. He is being supported by the following staff: Mrs. Beatrice Sheman, Counselor/Consul; Mr. Nat Bayjay, Minister Counselor/Press and Public Affairs; Mr. Tunde Johnson Spencer, Counselor and Ms. Anita M. Johnson, Third Secretary.

Local staff include: Mrs. Rosemary B. Ogunleye, PA/Executive Secretary (Bilingual) to the Ambassador; Mr. Israel Johnson, General Services Officer; Enakora S. Oghenechuko, Secretary/Receptionist; Mrs. Saran Waritay, Stewardess/Ambassador; Ms. Rebecca W. George, Jaitress; Jeremiah Eze, Chauffeur/Ambassador; Mr. Emmanuel Egga, Chauffeur/Utility; Attabor Usman Kulubt, Security; and Timothy E.. Edemoho, Security.

Embassy Affairs

During the reporting period, Ambassador Dr. Al Hassan Conteh reports that the Liberian Mission continues to promote Liberia's foreign policy objectives within the context of the *Agenda for Transformation* (AFR) of the Government of Liberia. Despite the very high cost of living in Abuja, the Ambassador reports that staff salaries were uncomplemented by health insurance and educational allowances that would enable staff to live with their families at the Mission. Because of these limitations, except for one case, the married diplomatic staff, including the Ambassador, have no families at post.

During the period under review, the Ambassador reports that the Mission provided consular services and assistance to Liberians living in Nigeria, students and non Liberians. The consular section of the Mission enjoyed excellent cooperation with the Liberian community as well as other consular missions in Abuja. It maintained an open channel of communication with Nigerians and other visitors who made enquiries

about visas, investments, traveling, and tourism. The relationship between the Embassy, Liberians and consular offices in Nigeria improved tremendously. Liberians resident in Nigeria are now involved in Embassy activities.

Consular services at the Abuja Mission were interrupted by the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease in Liberia. The affected period was between June, 2014, and May, 2015, when the WHO first declared Liberia Ebola free.

The Mission and the Liberian community in Abuja celebrated Liberia's 168th Independence Anniversary on Sunday, July 25, 2015. Officials and players of the visiting Lone Star under-20 female soccer team, who were in Nigeria to play their counterparts, the Falconets of Nigeria, attended the program. Ambassador Conteh delivered the Independence Day Message. On August 24, 2015, the Liberian Community in Abuja again collaborated with the mission in celebrating National Flag Day at the Embassy.

The focus of the program was to teach Liberian children in Abuja the significance and meaning of the national ensign. The program included a parade by Liberian children, the hoisting and allegiance to the flag, and an indoor program during which Ambassador Conteh delivered a speech on the history and meaning of the flag.

Liberia-Nigeria Relations

During the period under review, the Ambassador notes that the foreign policies of Liberia and Nigeria are largely influenced by similar domestic goals: the Agenda for Transformation in Liberia, and the Transformation Agenda - Nigeria. Liberia's Vision 2030 and Nigeria's Vision 2020 have similar aspirations in transforming the lives of the citizens of both states. Liberia aspires to be a middle income country by the year 2030. For its part, Nigeria envisaged ten years earlier to be one of the 20 industrial nations of the world. Both countries are struggling with issues of growth and development, although Nigeria's large economy and comparative advantage in petroleum and gas gives it a competitive edge. Liberia is now learning from Nigeria's experience as its legislative leaders visited the Nigeria National Petroleum Company (NNPC) last year to learn lessons from Nigeria's experience in the petroleum industry.

The Ambassador, in his reporting, recounted the assistance rendered by the Nigerian Government to Liberia's immigration, police, and Executive Protection Service with capacity development programs for these vital security institutions. Its Technical Assistance Crops Program (TAC) realized the posting of several Nigerian teachers to various educational institutions in Liberia.

Liberia-Nigeria Joint Commission

During the period under review, the Liberia-Nigeria Joint Commission met in Inaugural Session on July 14-15, 2014 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Abuja. At the end of the Session, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liberia, H.E. Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, and Honorable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E. Dr. Nuruddeen Muhammad, signed a Joint Communiqué and the Protocol on the Joint Communiqué. They also signed the following Agreements and MOUS on behalf of Liberia and Nigeria respectively: Bilateral Trade Cooperation Agreement, Agreement on Cultural Cooperation, MOU on Cooperation in Geology, Mining, Mineral Processing and Metallurgy, Agreement on Educational Cooperation, and an Agreement for the Training of Liberia Foreign Service Officers. This development materialized 27 years after the Government of the Republic of Liberia (GOL) signed an

Agreement on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation with the Federal Military Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on January 21, 1987 in Lagos, Nigeria.

The Ebola Virus Disease

The dreaded Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), which originated in Guinea and spread to Liberia and Sierra Leone, entered Nigeria in July 2014 through an index case from Liberia. The casualties included thousands of deaths in Liberia and her Mano River Union neighbors and about 12 cases in Nigeria. The quick intervention of the Nigerian government through contact tracing and surveillance curbed the virus in Nigeria, which was subsequently declared Ebola free on October 20, 2014. The Government of Nigeria contributed US\$1.5 million to Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea through the West Africa Health Organization to combat the disease. The Abuja Mission also mobilized donor support of over US\$1 million which was sent to the Ebola Trust Fund at the Central Bank of Liberia and international organizations working in Liberia to combat EVD.

ECOWAS Activities

During the period under review, the Abuja Mission coordinated Liberia's participation in all ECOWAS statutory meetings and activities. The Ambassador reports that his Mission attended meetings of the Mediation and Security Council, Council of Ministers, Ordinary and Extraordinary Summits of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government. He further reports that significant developments took place in conflict and crisis prevention and resolution in the sub-region during the reporting period that impacted developments in Guinea Bissau, Mali, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire. Successful elections also took place under ECOWAS' watch in Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Guinea, and Burkina Faso, where a botched coup by the presidential guards (RSP) briefly interrupted the Interim Government, prior to the elections that ushered in a new Government.

The ECOWAS Customs Union was also realized with the signing of Common External Tariff by all Members States. The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union (EU) was finalized, and signed by Liberia. Significant progress was also made towards the adoption of a single currency by 2020.

Because the tenure of certain statutory appointees of the Commission would end in February, 2016, the Authority decided to maintain the current structure of the Commission and conduct an overall rotation, after two years, in February, 2018, when the tenure of statutory appointees who assumed office in February 2014 ends. Members States, whose statutory appointees' tenure will end in February, 2016, were requested to nominate new statutory appointees to complete the remaining two years until 2018 deadline.

i) Embassy of the Republic of Liberia – Conakry, Guinea

The Liberian Embassy accredited near Conakry is headed by Ambassador Cllr. Krubo B. Kollie as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and assisted Mrs. Catharine N. Doe, Minister Counselor and Samuel Freeman, as Second Secretary/Vice Consul.

Embassy Affairs

During the period under review, Ambassador Kollie reports that the consular section continued to perform its statutory mandate by providing consular services to Liberians residing in Guinea.

In this reporting period, the consular section issued the total of 75 visas between January - December, 2015. A total of 262 vehicle permits were issued in the same period while 71 laissez passers and 164 identification card were issued.

Liberia- Guinea Relations

Ambassador Krubo Kollie reports that the traditional relations subsisting between Liberia and Guinea were stable and very cordial. This relationship has witnessed great improvement in all aspects of cooperation, as manifested by the several visits paid by H.E Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and other officials of the Liberia Government, meant to strengthen the bond of friendship between the two sisterly countries.

Ambassador Kollie reports that as a result of the direct threat the Ebola Virus Disease posed to the three countries of the Mano River Union (Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone), an Extraordinary Summit of Head of States was convened in the Guinean capital at which President Sirleaf was requested by her counterparts to articulate the position of the affected countries to be presented to the Ebola Response Conference which was held in Brussels, on March 3, 2015.

Guinea's Political Situation

During the period under review, the Ambassador reports that on October 11, 2015, presidential and parliamentary elections were held in Guinea; the second such democratic elections to be held since independence from France nearly 60 years ago.

Professor Alpha Conde, incumbent President and leader of the Assemble of the People of Guinea (RPG) won in the first round, polling 85 percent of the vote. On October 31, 2015, the Guinea's Constitutional Court formally confirmed President Alpha Conde's re-election victory, dismissing opposition claims of vote rigging and fraud in the contested October 11, 2015 polls. Professor Alpha Conde was therefore declared President of the Republic of Guinea with a renewed 5-year mandate which runs from December 21, 2015 to December 21, 2020.

Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State of the Mano River Union

During the period under review, Ambassador Kollie reports that at an Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State of the Mano Union countries, Her Excellency Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of Liberia was requested by the leaders of the countries affected by Ebola to serve as "spokesperson" of the Group at a Conference convened by European leaders which was held in Brussels to find practical solutions to the Ebola crisis.

Ministerial Meeting of Finance Ministers of the MRU

During the year under review, Ambassador Kollie reported that a ministerial meeting of the Mano River Union Finance Ministers convened in Conakry on June 20-21, 2015 and attended by officials from the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

On June 28, 2015, an Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Mano River Union was also held in the Conakry with the view of reviewing and adopting the financial and institutional mechanism for the management and implementation of the sub-regional program, and to endorse the sub-regional summary plan.

j) Embassy of the Republic of Liberia – Accra, Ghana

Mrs. Musu J. Ruhle, Minister Counselor of our Embassy in Accra continued to serve as Chargé d'Affaires a.i. pending the appointment of a new Ambassador. She is assisted by Mr. Robert King, First Secretary/Political Consul; Ms. Florence Brown, Second Secretary/Vice Consul; Mr. George T. Nimley, Third Secretary and Mateneh M. Varmah, Administrative Attaché, among others.

Embassy Affairs

During the period under review, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. Ruhle reports that the consular section continues to remain active, and maintained close contact and cordial relations with the Liberian community in Ghana. The community continues to engage the Embassy in seeking assistance for their welfare and interests in Ghana. There is an estimated 11,000 Liberians in Ghana, 75 percent of which were refugees, whose refugees status ended on June 30, 2012 by the United Nations High Commission for Refugee (UNHCR).

According to the Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Liberian nationals constitute the majority of applicants for travel documents (*laissez passer*) to enable them return to Liberia.

During the period, the Charge d'Affaires a.i. reports that funds were made available for basic refurbishment (painting and furniture) of the Chancery in the general areas of the building. There is still outstanding work to be done on the Chancery including the Ambassador's office and conference room. This needs to be completed to ensure the smooth operation of the Embassy.

She further indicated that progress has been made on the Ghanaian side for the reciprocal exchange of properties for use by the respective Embassies of the Republic of Liberia in Accra and the Republic of Ghana in Monrovia.

The Mission acquired two brand new vehicles in April of 2015 - a Nissan Patrol for representation use, and Hyundai Azara for utility use as well as a 30 KVA generator for use at the Chancery.

The Chargé d'Affaires further reports of challenges been faced by the Mission relating to social security benefits for its local staff who are Ghanaian nationals. According to her, the Embassy is obligated by Local Labor Laws to pay 18.5 percent of the Ghanaian local staff earnings as their Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT) to the Ghanaian Government as contributions which are then held by their Governemnt on their behalf. These are basically pension contributions liable for their end of services

benefits and there is no authorization and budget provision by the Home Office for it, according to Chargé d'Affaires.

Therefore, she recommends, for the consideration of the Ministry, a new salary proposal submitted by the Embassy which is inclusive of the monthly payment of the SSNIT contributions for the Ghanaian local staff in compliance with Ghana National Pensions Act, 2008,(Act 766). She also states that the Embassy received communications from the SSNIT Office through the Ghana Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, reminding the Embassy to comply with this Act in the spirit of the cordial relations between the two countries.

Liberia- Ghana Relations

Our Chargé d'Affaires reports that the period under review witnessed the continuation of the harmonious and cordial relations between Liberia and Ghana, relations which both countries continue to enjoy as evidenced by the high level of cooperation and understanding between the Governments of the two countries, particularly during the Ebola crises in Liberia.

Ghana's Political and Economic Situation

On political development in Ghana, the Chargé d'Affaires reports of increased momentum among stakeholders of the five active political parties towards the presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled in November, 2016.

She forecasted that the Ghanaian economy is expected to slow down for the fourth consecutive year to an estimated 3.9 percent growth rate in 2015, owing to a severe energy crisis, unsustainable domestic and external debt burden, and deteriorated macroeconomic and financial imbalances.

Provisional gross domestic product (GDP) figures issued by Ghana Statistical Services (GSS) suggest that the economy expanded by 4.2 percent in 2015, less than the growth of 7.3 percent recorded in 2014. The drivers of growth continues to be the service sector, which constitutes 50.2 percent of the economy, followed by industry and agriculture at 28.4 percent and 19.9 percent, respectively. However, the economy is expected to recover in 2016, registering a growth of around 6 percent, bolstered by an increase in oil and gas production, Private sector investment, improved public infrastructure and the country's political stability. Nonetheless, the prevailing low international oil prices could slow the pace of economic growth in that country.

k) Embassy of the Republic of Liberia – Pretoria, South Africa

Ambassador Mrs. Lois Lewis Brutus, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Liberia to the Republic of South Africa, with concurrent accreditation to the SADC countries of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, continues to head the Mission in South Africa. She has a staff of six to work with, who are as follows: Mr. Ben-Sie Toe Collins, Minister Counselor (recalled); Mr. Philip Z. Kollie, Second Secretary/Vice Consul; Mr. Philip Z. Kollie, Second Secretary/Vice Consul and Ms. Hawa C. Dukuly, Personal Assistant to the Ambassador.

Embassy Affairs

Ambassador Brutus reports that during the period under the review, the Embassy was fully engaged in numerous activities, aimed at promoting with the interests of Liberia in South Africa. The Embassy played an active role within the diplomatic corps in the monitoring of the Xenophobia attacks on foreign migrants which took place in April, 2015, and protecting the welfare of Liberian nationals residing in those affected areas.

The consular section of the Embassy, according to Ambassador, provided services to a number of Liberians including the issuance of laissez passer and the attestation and verification of Liberian passports and other legal documents from the Republic of Liberia. A total number of 123 visas were issued to ordinary, official and diplomatic passport holders, while 15 laissez passers were issued.

During the period under review, the Embassy record indicates that total of 486 registered Liberians currently reside in the Republic of South Africa. This number, according to the Embassy, is spread mainly across three of South Africa's provinces: namely, Guateng, Durban and Cape Town. The Embassy says this number could be higher since some Liberians are unable to appear at the Embassy due to various challenges including lack of travel documents passports, unaffordability of transport cost, accommodations etc. Liberians residing in the nine remaining accredited SADC countries have constantly appealed to the Embassy through individual telephone calls about the need for Embassy officials visit their respective countries in SADC to acquaint the Embassy with their plight and identify means in addressing them. Financial constraints have hampered the Embassy's ability to travel to these countries to carry fact finding missions.

Liberia -South Africa and SADC Countries Relations

Ambassador Brutus reports that relations between the Republics of Liberia and South Africa on one hand, and the SADC countries on the other, continue to be cordial and harmonious.

The Ambassador reported that the Embassy facilitated the attendance and participation at the 25th Ordinary Session of the African Union of the President of the Republic of Liberia, H.E. Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and delegation, which took place in Johannesburg, from June 7-15, 2015.

During the Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference, the Ambassador reports that at the sideline of the Conference, an Agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Liberia and the Republic of South Africa on a Framework for Bilateral Cooperation in all areas of common interests including the political, social, cultural, scientific and technical sectors within the spirit of African solidarity, was signed June 14, 2015. South African Foreign Minister, Ms. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, signed for her country, while Foreign Minister of Liberia, Mr. Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan signed for Liberia.

The Ambassador was also pleased to report that the Embassy also facilitated, during the year under review, the participation of the Liberian Government delegation headed by the President of the Republic of Liberia, H.E. Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Summit, held on 2-5 December, 2015 in Sandton, Johannesburg.

The Summit was aimed at consolidating solidarity and cooperation amongst the People's Republic of China and Africa. The Summit brought together the President of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Xi Jinping, along with 50 African Nations' Heads of State, including the Chairperson and Commissioners of the African Union Commission attending. The Johannesburg Summit on FOCAC, according to the Ambassador, is considered historic because it was the first FOCAC Summit held in Africa, and had taken new dimension in China-Africa relations.

The Ambassador further noted that her Mission coordinated and facilitated at the sidelines of the FOCAC Summit, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the Governments of the Republic of Liberia and the Republic of South Africa. This MOU was signed by Mr. Axel Addy, Minister of Commerce & Industry of the Republic of Liberia and Mr. Rob Davis, Minister of Trade and Investment of the Republic of South Africa.

I) Consulate-General of Liberia - N'zerekore, Guinea

The Consulate General in N'zerekore is headed by Mr. William Duyan Morris, Consul General.

Consulate Affairs

The Consul-General in his reporting indicated that the Consulate has identified a parcel of land in the forest region of Guinea which he believes could be used for the construction of a new Chancery for the Consulate in order to reduce future Government expenditure on rental buildings.

During the period under review, Consul General Morris reports that pending resettlement cases of Liberians residing in that region prior to the discontinued program of humanitarian services provided by the UNHCR, is expected to resume for those Liberian family heads opting to be resettled in a third country. About 23 family heads, approximately 150 Liberians under UNHCR protection, are to benefit from the program. Periodic updates of their bio-data are routinely carried out by the UNHCR.

Consulate and Guinea Relations

Consul General William Doyan Morris of the Consulate-General in N'Zerekore states that during this reporting period, cordial relations continue to subsist between the Consulate-General on the one hand, and the Liberian community, diplomatic corps and the Guinean Government on the other.

AMERICAS MISSIONS

a) Embassy of the Republic of Liberia – Washington, D.C., United States of America

The Embassy of the Republic of Liberia, Washington D.C., United States of America is headed by H.E. Mr. Jeremiah Solunteh, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. He is assisted by the following staff: Jeff Gongoer Dowana, Sr., Minister Plenipotentiary and Deputy Chief of Mission; Famatta Deline-Manu, Minister Counselor responsible for Economic Affairs; Christopher J. Nippy, First Secretary and Consul responsible for Political Affairs and Immigration (now recalled); and Doliakeh Quويمie, First

Secretary and Consul responsible for Financial Affairs. Others are: Gabriel I.H. Williams, Minister Counselor, Press and Public Affairs; Catherine Nmah, Secretary and Vice Consul; Kargleen M.K. Demmah, Third Secretary responsible for issuance of the new biometric passports and related data processing; Haibatu Pussah, Third Secretary and primary document processor in the Consular Office; Cecelia Harmon-Rogers, Acting Political & Immigration Officer; Edmore Hamy Delaney, Acting Administrator/Protocol; and Vickie Ward, Special Assistant to the Ambassador.

Embassy Affairs

During the period under review, Ambassador Sulunteh reports that the consular section issued 2,812 visas to U.S. and non U.S. citizens. Five hundred and eighteen (518) gratis visas were also issued during the same period. Three hundred sixty-four (364) travel and authentication papers were issued. He indicates in his report that majority of the gratis visas issued were for the U.S. military personnel and other U.S. officials traveling to Liberia during the Ebola crisis.

The Ambassador notes challenges faced by the Embassy in the remittances of funds to Monrovia due to the banking problems faced with its remittance bank, Sterling National Bank in New York. The problem evolved from the fact that Sterling National Bank officially notified the Embassy that it was terminating banking services with the Embassy without prejudice. As a result, a new account was opened with the Capital One Bank in New York for remittances of funds. The Ambassador acknowledged in his reporting that the State Department sought to assist the Embassy.

Liberia-US Relations

Ambassador Jeremiah Sulunteh of our Mission in Washington, D.C. reports that relations between Liberia and the United States and countries to which he is accredited continue to be harmonious. The historical relations between Liberia and the United States continue to be characterized by cordiality, friendship and cooperation. This fact was further manifested by the visit of Her Excellency, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to the United States to express the Government and people of Liberia profound thanks and appreciation to the Government and people of the United States of America, for their moral and financial assistance in combating the deadly Ebola Virus which plagued the country. During that visit, President Sirleaf and President Obama seize the opportunity to discuss matters of mutual interests and to reaffirm the traditional friendship between two countries.

Due to the Ebola epidemic which engulfed three Mano River Union countries (Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone), Ambassador Sulunteh notes in his report that President Sirleaf, at the invitation of the President of the United States, Barack Obama, paid a second visit accompanied by two leaders of the West Africa most affected by the Ebola epidemic, Presidents Ernest Bai Koroma of the Sierra Leone and Alpha Condé of Guinea.

According to the Ambassador, measures for containing the Ebola Virus in the three affected countries were highlighted by the four leaders which led to an Ebola Summit hosted by the World Bank Group as a direct result of the meeting between the world leaders.

During this reporting period, the Ambassador also notes that President Sirleaf in her strive to continue her development agenda, paid another visit to the United States of America from July 7-11, 2015, where Her Excellency met with officials, private individuals and Liberians living in the United States. Her visit,

according to the Ambassador, was to present on behalf of the three affected Ebola countries a Mano River Union Recovery Plan at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

U. S. Domestic Politics

The year under review witnessed a number of events ranging from legislative enactments, issues relating to the crisis in Ukraine, the Iran nuclear agreement, the spread of Islamic militancy, and the creation of so-called Islamic State (IS), the Paris Summit on Climate Change, and the 2016 U.S. Presidential election for which candidates of the two main political parties - the Democratic Party and the Republican Party - are campaigning to hold primaries.

The following are among the key candidates for the United States presidency campaigning to win their respective party's primary and become the candidates to contest the election.

- a. Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Democrat
- b. Senator Bernie Sanders, Democrat
- c. Former Governor of Maryland-Martin Omalley, Democrat
- d. Billionaire businessman Donald Trump, Republican
- e. Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, Republican
- f. Retired Neurosurgeon, Dr. Ben Carson, Republican
- g. Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, Republican
- h. Former Governor Jeb Bush of Florida, Republican
- i. Senator Ron Paul-Kentucky, Republican
- j. Former CEO- Carly Fiorina, Republican
- k. Senator Chris Christie, Republican
- l. Former Governor Mike Huckabee, Republican
- m. Former Governor George Pataki, Republican

United States - Cuba Relations

In 1961 the United States severed diplomatic ties with Cuba and began pursuing covert operation to overthrow the Fidel Castro regime after that regime increased trade with the Soviet Union, nationalized U.S.-owned properties and hiked taxes on Americans. In October 1962, the United States discovered that Cuba entered a secret agreement with the Soviet Union that allowed the Soviet Union to build a missile base on the Island. Following the events of 1961-62, economic embargo and diplomatic isolation became the major prongs of U.S. policy towards Cuba until December 17, 2014, when President Barack Obama and Raul Castro announced that the United States and Cuba would restore full diplomatic ties for the first time in more than fifty years followed by a prisoner swap: the three jailed members of the "Cuban Five" (one had been released in 2011 and another earlier in 2014) were released in exchange for a US intelligence asset, Rolando Sarraff Trujillo, who had been imprisoned in Havana for nearly twenty years. The agreement came after 28 months of secret talks between U.S. and Cuban officials that were encouraged and brokered by Pope Francis.

Iraq, Syria and ISIS Factor

During the course of the year, the militant group, so-called Islamic State (IS) continued to occupy large parts of Iraq and Syria, as international efforts intensified to contain the group. The complexities of the Iraq

war with ISIS on the one hand and war in Syria on the other, do pose serious challenges to the US. Nevertheless, given the chemistry of the region and experiences gained from Afghanistan and Iraq, the Obama administration seems unlikely to deploy ground troops.

Iran Nuclear Negotiations

In 2015, the United States and the international community reached an historic agreement with the Iranian Government. Secretary of State John Kerry informed the international community of reaching an agreement calling for drastic reduction in Iran's nuclear potential over 20-year period. As a result of agreement, international sanctions imposed on its nuclear program were lifted against the country.

Ukraine Crisis

Republicans in Congress have shown interest to empower President Obama to authorize the Department of Defense to arm the Ukrainians; GOP stalwarts believe Ukrainians should be militarily empowered to engage the Russian separatists in view of Russia's support to the separatists.

b) Permanent Mission of the Republic of Liberia to the United Nations – New York, New York

The Liberian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York is headed by Ambassador Marjon V. Kamara, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary/Permanent Representative. She is being assisted by 12 staff members including: Mr. George S.W. Patten, Sr., Minister Counselor, Mr. Abu Kamara, Minister Counselor/Press and Public Affairs; Ms. Gail Farngalo, Counselor; Mr. Erastus S. Wieh, First Secretary/Financial Officer & Distraction; Mrs. Maggie Gibson Glay, Third Secretary/Executive Secretary; Ms. Beckeema Jallow, Secretary, Mr. Kawyienee Andrews, Administrative Assistant/Finance Attaché; and Mr. Sam Horace, Document Officer.

A new driver for the representation vehicle was employed following the resignation of Mr. Susano D. Manalansang in May 2015. He was replaced by Mr. Jesus Bautistia, a Filipino national. Mr. E. Abayomi Perkins drives the utility vehicle and Mrs. Julia Samuels is the Ambassador's housekeeper.

Mission Affairs

During the period under review, Ambassador Kamara drew attention to the status of government's property located in New Rochelle, New York. She pointed out that the building is in a dilapidated condition for residence occupancy eventhough in 2013, renovation work was carried out on the exterior of the building as the first phase. The second phase of the renovation which involved the interior has not been done due to the slow pace in awarding a contract. The Ambassador also noted that it was brought to the attention of the Mission by the management of the leased Chancery of an offer to sell to the Mission the Suite it currently occupies. It is the view of the Ambassador, that Government could consider looking into this opportunity.

UN Activities

During this reviewing period, Ambassador Kamara is pleased to report that the Mission continue to, with diligence, loyalty and dedication, serve Government's best interest at the United Nations and in its specialized bodies. She states also that the year 2015 was a momentous year for the United Nations.

The Ambassador reports that the year witnessed the celebration of two major events, the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations. In adopting the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the global organization took crucial steps that will address the many social-economic and political issues the UN has been grappling with over the years. The Post-2015 Development Agenda, the successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDS), is heralded as a blue print that will provide succor and spawn relief to many societies around the world.

The Permanent Mission, according to Ambassador Kamara, continued to play a fundamental role in ensuring the presence and participation of Liberia in all activities at the United Nations, including serving as Chair of the High-Level Committee of the Post-2015 Development Agenda at the Ambassadorial level. Due to the Ambassador's outstanding leadership as Chair of the High-Level Committee, the mobilization of a larger African group to ensure that Africa speaks with one voice was achieved.

It is pleasing to note, the Ambassador states that the Permanent Mission played a central role in articulating the position of government in the fight against Ebola and was fully engaged on the Advisory Committee of the Multi-partner Trust Fund on the Ebola disease.

Ambassador Kamara reports that at the United Nations, several Working Committees were formed to deliberate on various important issues brought to the attention of the world body by various actors and Specialized Agencies within the UN body.

The First Committee (Disarmament and International Security)

During the reporting period, Ambassador Kamara reports that the First Committee which deals with disarmament, international peace and security related issues held several meetings, organized conferences and deliberated upon the agenda items assigned to it by the United Nations General Assembly. Despite the enormous challenges that States continue to face in the areas of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation as well as the technological gaps that prevent Least Developed Countries from tackling illicit arms trade, the year 2015 was generally regarded as relatively successful in so far as disarmament and conventional arms control are concerned. This followed the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty of December 24th 2014.

Ambassador Kamara reports that more than 79 countries including Liberia have since ratified the Treaty and deposited their Instruments of Ratification. The first meeting of States parties to the Treaty took place in Cancun, Mexico, from August 24 - 27 2015. The Liberian delegation, while informing the Committee on steps being taken by the Government of Liberia in collaboration with partners to rid the country of weapons, called for robust international support to help the Country implement successful, the United Nations Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects, (UNPOA). The delegation renewed the call on the UN and the international community to increase support for the Regional Center for Disarmament in Africa, which is based in Lome, Togo.

The Post-2015 Development Agenda Negotiation Process and Outcome

Ambassador Kamara noted in her report that the most outstanding achievement of the United Nations in 2015 was the completion of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which was finalized on August 2, 2015, through an intergovernmental process of consultations and negotiations that lasted for three years (2012-2015). It was considered the most inclusive process, involving Member States, Representatives and Experts of Governments, Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Ambassador observed that the process was not without difficulties and contentious issues including defining the relationship between the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. However, demonstrated leadership by the co-facilitators and Member States' dedication to the process contributed immensely to the successful conclusion.

How to implement the New Transformative Agenda 2030 or all Countries, Particularly for Least Developed Countries- Brainstorming and Mind Searching

Ambassador Kamara reports that since the adoption of the Transformative Agenda 2030, focus has shifted to its implementation. Several events, including High Level Dialogue, Retreats, and Consultations have taken place to ascertain views of member States and Stakeholders. The high level events have identified the strength of the UN Development System in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda; and ensuring follow-up and review of the SDGs as two issues that are central to the implementation of the Agenda.

African Union High-Level Committee (HLC) of Post 2015 Development Agenda

The African Union, at its 21st Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in May 2013, established the High-Level Committee on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (HLC) in New York. The HLC was requested to, inter alia, crystallize, synthesize, and further consult as deemed necessary and finalize the Common African Position (CAP) document which espouses the development priorities of Africa compartmentalized into six pillars, broadly covering issues of poverty eradication, narrowing inequalities, and promoting the environment and maintain peace and security. The HLC, comprised the Heads of State and Government of 10 African Countries namely, Algeria, Chad, Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Namibia and South Africa, two drawn from each of the five regions and placed under the Chairmanship of Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia.

The HLC was led by the Permanent Mission through Ambassador Marjon Kamara. The Permanent Mission was very active in helping to shape the direction and activities of the HLC in New York, especially during the Intergovernmental negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which produced the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda respectively.

The Permanent Mission's leadership of the HLC was indicative of President Sirleaf's role as Chairperson of the Heads of State and Government of the HLC. The Mission on numerous occasions convened meetings of the HLC and the larger African Countries before and after each negotiation session to carry out post-mortem and formulate strategies for impending sessions. The HLC in New York ensured that Africa's positions were fully articulated and captured during the negotiations.

Liberia also chaired the Bureau of African Group of Negotiators (AGN), whose terms of reference was endorsed by the African Union Assembly as the single body to act on behalf of Africa in the Intergovernmental negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Third International Conference on Financing for Development. Other members of the Bureau were the Permanent Representatives of Chad, Tanzania, Tunisia and Zimbabwe. The negotiating experts of the AGN were drawn from Algeria, Cameroun, Egypt and Chad, while Nigeria served as Coordinating Coordinator of the Group.

The leadership of Liberia on the HLC and AGN yielded positive dividends for Africa as the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Addis Ababa Action Agenda integrated over 80% of the Continent's development priorities as contained in the CAP, as well as other development frameworks of Africa. This remarkable feat reflects positively on the African leadership by fulfilling one of the key mandates given to the HLC to ensure that elements of the CAP were integrated into the new Post-2015 global development agenda.

The Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee) & other related Matters

Ambassador Kamara reports that the 70th Session of the Third Committee commenced on October 7, 2015 and concluded on November 25, 2015. The Committee examined a total of 64 draft resolutions under 10 agenda items, namely: social development, advancement of women, report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions, report of the Human Rights Council, promotion and protection of the rights of children rights, of indigenous peoples, elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, right of peoples to self-determination, promotion and protection of human rights, crime prevention and criminal justice, and international drug control.

Sixty-one resolutions were adopted, 43 by consensus and 18 by votes reflecting a 70 percent consensus in the Committee. The resolutions voted upon were mainly those concerning human rights situations in specific Countries and those sponsored by the Non-aligned Movement (NAM). This reflects the East/West and North/South divergence on human rights and social issues in the Committee and the UN more generally.

Ambassador Kamara further reports that three draft resolutions under the Social Development Agenda item, namely, a) The implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth Special Session of the General Assembly; b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family; c) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons. Second World Assembly on Ageing, which were presented by the Group of 77 & China, were not adopted due to a rejection of language which reflected the diverse forms of families existing in the world; a concept which was unacceptable to the African Group (most especially, Nigeria) as it was perceived to connote the inclusion of same-sex families. The Group included the other two resolutions as a bargaining chip, and when their proposal to delete the paragraph carrying the language that was not accepted, it was used as a trump card to curtail negotiations on the other resolutions.

Advancement of Women

The Ambassador viewed the year 2015 as a landmark year for the United Nations, and also a pivotal year for the empowerment of Women. She considered the year one of stocktaking on the global progress on gender equality with the commemoration of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; and the 15th Anniversary of the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. The Government of Liberia played a highly visible role during commemorative activities on these Agendas held during the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the High-level segment of the UN General Assembly.

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

During the period under review, Ambassador Kamara reported that the 59th Session of the CSW was held March 9-20 2015. The Commission undertook a review of progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 20 years after its adoption at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, including current challenges that affect its implementation and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The session also addressed opportunities for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The general conclusion is that uneven, major gaps remain and structural barriers persist in the implementation of the 12 critical areas of concern to the Platform for Action.

It is widely acknowledged that no country has fully achieved equality and empowerment for women and girls and that significant levels of inequality between women and men and girls and boys persist globally, with many women and girls experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, vulnerability and marginalization throughout their life circle. An account of this imbalance was the common thread reflected in the national interventions of Member States during the general debate at the conference, Liberia being no exception. The Liberian delegation was headed by the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Mrs. Julia Duncan-Cassell, who led a delegation of 72 representatives from a cross section of government ministries, the legislature and judiciary, civil society and youth organizations.

Her Excellency, Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, was an Honoree and Special Guest of UN Women at the conference. In her remarks at the High-level Thematic Debate on advancing gender equality and empowerment of women and girls for Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda, she referred to the commemoration as a monumental event but echoed the common sentiments shared by all. Driving the message of persistent inequality which exists in the world, she referenced the San Diego Conference which indicates that at the current pace of change in closing the inequality gap, it would take 81 years to achieve gender equity value, and more than 30 years to reach gender balance in decision-making.

Global Leaders Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Ambassador Kamara noted in her report that the synergies between the women's agenda and the Post - 2015 Development Agenda came into greater focus during the Global Leaders Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, which was held on September 30, 2015, on the margins of the Summit to adopt the Sustainable Development Agenda. Her Excellency, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf made a political commitment to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Demonstrating the Government of Liberia's commitment to improving the lives of women and girls and promoting their empowerment, President Sirleaf made the following commitments on behalf of her Administration: Ensuring that the Domestic Violence Bill is passed into law for the safety of women; continuing adherence to enforcement of the rape law which denies bail to the offenders of rape thereby continuing effort to protect our women and girls from this heinous offense; upholding all rights in our law on children to ensure their access to quality education and protection to retain them in school; ensuring training and better work conditions for our Health Care Workers to ensure better health care delivery for all citizens, particularly women and girls who are most affected; continuing the effort to end practices adversely affecting girls' dignity by enacting laws to ban the longstanding practice of female genital mutilation; improving the living and working conditions of women in the informal sector who bear the brunt of disadvantage; and ensuring that ongoing Constitution Review Process in Liberia guarantees women's full participation in governance and national affairs on a parity basis.

Security Council High-Level Review on the Implementation of Resolution 1325 of 2000

Liberia actively participated in the debate upon the direct invitation from the Spanish Government and cosponsored the resolution. Liberia's delegation was headed by Ambassador Marjon Kamara along with representation from the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection through Assistant Minister Sieane Abdel-Baki.

In addressing the Council, Ambassador Kamara recalled Liberia's journey to peace after the protracted civil conflict including the contribution of Liberian women to peace, security and conflict resolution. Liberia's recognition of being the first country in Africa to complete its five-year National Action Plan was also cited. Ambassador Kamara, acknowledging the accomplishments made in the advancement and empowerment of women in Liberia, affirmed that more needs to be done and enumerated the challenges and impediments to the successful implementation of the resolution in Liberia.

In conclusion, Ambassador Kamara called upon the international partners to support Liberia in its recovery process from the Ebola health crisis to translate Liberia's commitments to the WPS implantation into reality. The Government of Liberia pledged to undertake the following measures before the end of the current administration: (a) to ensure the passage into law of the draft Domestic Violence Act which was endorsed by the Liberian Cabinet on June 15, 2015, and under consideration by the National Legislature; (b) to ensuring that the outcome of the ongoing Constitution Review Process will guarantee and institutionalize women's full and equal participation in governance and national affairs; to improve women's access to justice throughout the country by collaborating with the Judiciary to initiate the decentralization of Criminal Court E to all Counties of the country, so that rural based SGBV survivors may have recourse; (d) to implement its decision to establish gender units with each Ministry and Agency of Government; and (e) to increase allocation in the national budget to support the implementation of resolution 1325 across the country, with the aim of reinforcing economic empowerment programs and expanding their coverage for the benefit of women and girls in rural areas.

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

The Ambassador reported that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women deliberated and considered the combined seventh and eight periodic reports on Liberia's implementation of the Convention of the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEAW). The event

took place on October 29, 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Liberian delegation was led by the Mrs. Julia Duncan-Cassell, Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection and included Deputy Minister Sieane Abdul-Baki and Counselor Gail Farnago, Third Committee Expert and Gender Focal Point at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Liberia to the United Nations.

According to the Ambassador's report, Minister Duncan-Cassell presented Liberia's report to the Committee containing responses to questions on various provisions of the programs policies and legal frameworks established in Liberia together with the shortfalls and challenges. The presentation was accompanied by a full day session of interactive dialogue between the Committee and the delegation on the progress and welfare of women and girls in Liberia, in relations to provisions of the Convention.

The meeting concluded with proposal and recommendations from the Committee members and a statement of encouragement from the President of the Committee to the delegation to consider all the recommendations provided for the benefit of all girls and women in Liberia. Minister Duncan-Cassell reiterated that the Government of Liberia assigns priority to the development and empowerment of women, and undertook to give the recommendations due urgent consideration.

The Commission on Social Development

Ambassador Kamara reports that the year 2015 was also a landmark year for the Commission on Social Development. The Fifty-Third Session of the Commission was held February 4-13, 2015 under the theme, "Rethinking and Strengthening Social Development in the Contemporary World", with the backdrop of taking stock of current and emerging challenges and developing a more transformative people-centered approach to sustainable development that leave no one behind.

On February 5, 2015, the UN marked the 20th Anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD). The first World Summit for Social Development took place in 1995, in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Commission on Social Development has since been tasked with the follow-up and implementation of the WSSD's outcome document, the Copenhagen Declaration and Programs of Action.

In examining the progress of implementation, it was determined that the three main objectives of the declaration, namely poverty eradication, full productive employment and decent work for all, and social integration have not been fully realized and therefore remain priorities for global development. Member States were to invest more in healthcare and education, intensify efforts to close social development gaps and decrease inequalities targeting the most vulnerable-young people, persons with disabilities and the elderly.

UN General Assembly High-Level Events on Youth

Liberia's Permanent Mission reports that two high-level events pertaining to youth took place during its reporting: the President of 69th General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Sam Kutesa, hosted the two events. They were the observance of the 20th Anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY) held on May 29, 2015, and the Forum on the Demographic Dividend and Youth Empowerment convened on June 1, 2015. These events benefited from high level participation by the Liberian Government in the persons of Cllr. Neto Zarzar Leighe, Minister of Labor and Mr. Saah Charles N'Tow, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports for Youth Development.

The objectives of the Special Sessions of the General Assembly, according Ambassador Kamara, were: to make the 20th Anniversary of the WPAY to take stock of progress made in its implementation, identify the gaps and challenges and discuss the best way forward for full, effective and accelerated implementation, including through the 2030 Development Agenda.

In regard to the Forum, the objectives were: to evaluate investments needed to reap the demographic dividend; examine the principal obstacles to an active and productive participation of young people in the social, economic and political life of their communities and countries; explore policies and measures needed to create opportunities for youth employment; and examine how developing countries could be supported in their initiatives to create a framework on demographic divide and- accelerating economic growth to promote decent jobs for their youths.

In delivering Liberia's statement, Minister Neto Zarzar Lighe recognized the need for more work to be done to improve the wellbeing of youth and enhance their active and responsive participation in decision-marking at all levels. He further highlighted the efforts Liberia has made on advancing youth development, including developing and implementing the National Youth Policy, Youth Coordination Mechanism, the President's Young Professionals Program, the National Youth Bill and the launch of the National Policy on Technical ,Vocation, Education and Training.

Ebola Engagements

During the reviewing period, the Permanent Mission, according to Ambassador Kamara, remained fully engaged in multiple UN initiatives aimed at drawing that World Body's attention to the Ebola crisis in Liberia and the Mano River basin. Frequent engagements were mainly with the General Assembly and the Security Council, while arranging video links between the Liberian Government and Member States in the Council and the Assembly as well as the Peace Building Commission and participating in the UNDP High Level Event on Ebola recovery. Meetings of the Advisory Committee were some of the highlights activities the Permanent Mission participated in.

Scale of Assessment for Apportionment of the Expenses of the UN

Ambassador Marjon Kamara reports that a new scale of assessments was adopted by the UN to determine how much Member States must contribute to the United Nations Regular and Peacekeeping Budget. According to the new scale, China's assessment rate is 7.92 percent of the total Budget, which makes China the third-largest contributor to the Regular Budget after the United States (22 percent) and Japan (9.68 percent). The Assembly resolved that the scale of member States assessed contribution to the United Nations Regular Budget for 2016-2017 and 2018 will be determined based on estimates of gross national income and the average statistical base period of three and six years, among other factors.

In accordance with the UN financial regulations 3.9, the State of Palestine and the Holy See, which were not members of the United Nations but participated in the setting up of its activities, should be called upon to contribute towards the Organization's expenses, on the basis of a national assessment rate of 0.007 percent and 0.00 percent respectively.

The Total Contribution of the Government of Liberia to the United Nations for the year 2015

The total contribution of Government of Liberia payable to the United Nations for the current year, 2015 is broken down as follows:

(a)	Contribution to UN Regular Budget	\$24,932.00
(b)	Contribution to UN Peacekeeping Operations Support	\$30,298.00
(c)	Contribution to UN International Tribunals Support	<u>\$ 3,405.00</u>
	Grand Total expected payments for 2016	\$58,635.00

The Security Council

The Council remained focused on the crisis in Syria and other parts of the Middle East. It also focused on conflict situations in Africa, including the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Guinea Bissau, Libya, South Sudan, Burundi, Somalia, peacekeeping transition issues and spread of Ebola virus in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. In these situations, the Council assessed the political, humanitarian and human rights consequences of the conflicts and global health issues.

The Council also deliberated on issues to peace building, protection of civilians, trafficking in persons, institutions of conflict, terrorism, and the role of women in Peace and Security.

The Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council continue to cooperate in addressing conflicts and International crimes such as terrorism and piracy. The UN and AU collaboration in the Darfur, Sudan, Republic of South Sudan, Somalia, Mali, and the Central Africa Republic remain critical in restoring peace and stability to these Africa nations.

Liberia-UN (UNMIL) Relations

The Security Council continues to be seized with developments in Liberia in various areas and considered the 29th Progress Report of the UN Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). The report placed emphasis on UNMIL transition and the resumption of its drawdown that was suspended following the outbreak of the Ebola disease.

The 29th Progress Report followed an assessment mission conducted by the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) to evaluate conditions in Liberia, especially post-Ebola. According to the report, while Liberia has made good progress, security situation in the Country remains fragile.

Cllr. Benedict Sannoh, Minister of Justice, led the Liberian delegation to the Council's consideration of the report. In his statement, the Minister indicated that some of the concerns raised and the incidents reported did not give a holistic picture of the situation in Liberia and appeared to consolidate events which the Government had not condoned.

Specifically, he said the lapses mentioned in regard to corruption and impunity are more of manifestation of capacity challenges than of political will to fight the menace. In regard to the Police, he said Government was working on decongesting the Police beyond Montserrado County into the Counties. He indicated that the review and reform of the laws relative to security sector was a dynamic and ongoing process. On human rights, he said the Government does not condone violations by any of its Institutions

and the Government remains committed to fulfilling its obligations under relevant local and international laws.

On UNMIL transition, he said Liberia was working to meet the timelines set for the transition and that Government's transition plan would cost at least US\$104.8 million over a three-year period.

Boards and Commissions on which Liberia serves

During the period under review, the Permanent Mission took the initiative to obtain membership on the following United Nations Boards and Commissions:

World Food Program (WFP): (Term: 2016-2018)

Committee on Conferences: (Term: 2016-2018)

UN-Women Executive Board: (Term: 2016-2018)

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) (Term: 2013-2016);

Commission for Social Development (CSOCD): (Term: 2013-2016)

Commission on the Status of Women: (Term: 2015-2019);

United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) (Term: 2014-2019)

Commission of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ): (Term: 2015-2017)

c) Consulate General of Liberia – New York, USA

The Consulate General Mission in New York is headed by Mr. Rudolph E. Sherman as Consul-General. He is assisted by Mrs. Kim Green-Konneh, Second Secretary and Vice Consul.

Consulate Affairs

During this reporting period, Consul-General Sherman reports that the Consulate continues to exercise its statutory functions by providing consular services to Liberians and foreign nationals desirous of obtaining Liberian visas to travel to Liberia.

The Consulate issued 1307 visas, of which 75 were issued on gratis to officials of the US Government, diplomats and UN personnel. Seventy-Six (76) Liberian passports were renewed in favor of Liberian citizens (pending the arrival of their new biometric passports). One hundred and sixty-one (161) laissez passers were issued of which nine (9) were on gratis. A total of 133 birth affidavits were issued while notary certificates were issued for three documents. The Consulate also reported the issuance of 11 mortuary certificates. Funds generated were deposited in the Consulate's escrow account, according to the Consul General.

Liberia's Consulate- State of New York Relations

Consul General Rudolph E. Sherman is pleased to report that the Consulate General relations with the State and City of New York, New York City Commission for the United Nations, Consular Corps and Protocol, Society of Foreign Consuls in New York, Chamber of Commerce, and the United States Homeland Security (USHS), continue to be cordial and friendly.

ASIAN / MIDDLE EASTERN MISSIONS

a) Embassy of the Republic of Liberia – Kuwait, State of Kuwait

The Embassy of the Republic of Liberia in Kuwait continues to be headed by Ambassador Konah Blackett, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. He is being assisted by Mrs. Klaneh Bruce, as Counselor and Mr. Stephen A. Marsh, Second Secretary/Vice Consul.

Embassy Affairs

During the period under review, Ambassador Blackett reports that on February 26, 2015, he presented his Letters of Credence to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktou, Vice President and Ruler of Dubai of the United Emirates at the Al Mushrif Palace in Kuwait.

The Consular Section continues to perform its consular functions and generating revenues from various consular activities it performs at the Embassy including nullifying five fraudulent Liberian passports in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Consulate Department of Kuwait. All consular fees were deposited in the Government of Liberia Revenue Account with Gulf Bank-Kuwait.

Liberia-Kuwait Relations

Ambassador Konah Blackett reports that there continues to exist the most cordial and sisterly relationship between the Governments of Liberia and the State of Kuwait, characterized by cooperation and mutual respect. As a manifestation of this rewarding friendship, four separate Agreements were signed with the Kuwait Fund and a Memorandum of Understanding between the Kuwait Fund, OFID and BADEA with the view of enhancing the Post-Ebola Economic Recovery Programmes of Liberia. These Agreements provide a unique opportunity for Liberia's recovery drive which included a grant of approximately US\$3 million from the Government of Kuwait to clear Liberia's debt obligation to the Kuwait Fund; the Debt Relief Agreement within the framework of the HIPC initiative of US\$12 million; a grant for US\$1.8 million to provide technical assistance for the feasibility study and preliminary design for the construction of the highway from Gbarnga to Medicorma along the Sierra Leone-Liberia border; a loan of US\$14 million, for the rehabilitation of the Samuel Alfred Ross Port of Greenville, Sinoe County.

From August 30 to September 9, 2015 the Ambassador indicated in his report that a technical team comprising experts from the Kuwait Fund, BADEA, OFID and Saudi Fund visited Liberia and appraised the Gbarnga -Voinjama-Medicorma Road Project and drafted a loan agreement which was initialed by the Government of Liberia and the heads of the technical team, prior to their departure from Liberia. The visit of the technical team resulted in pledges for the construction of phases 1 & 2, of lot 1 of the Gbarnga-Medicorma Road Project, for approximately, US\$92 million.

Pledges made from the following institution includes: Kuwait Fund, US\$ 17 million; Saudi Fund, US\$20 million; OFID, US\$20 million ; BADEA, US\$20 million; and Abu Dhabi, \$US15 million.

Ambassador Blacket also reported that a Joint Committee for Cooperation and a Memorandum of Understanding established between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait and Liberia which resulted in the signing of an Air Services Agreement in Jamaica on June 28, 2010, was ratified by the State of

Kuwait through the issuance of Decree No. 357 on February 2, 2011. He also noted that Liberia has not ratified this Agreement.

b) Embassy of the Republic of Liberia – Doha, Qatar

The Embassy of Republic of Liberia in Doha, Qatar, is headed by Mr. Ibrahim K. Nyei, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. Diplomatic staffers include: Mrs. Sarah Fyneah Dorbor, Minister Counselor; Mr. Alieu M. Massaquoi, First Secretary and Consul and Mr. Emmanuel S. Larmeh, Second Secretary and Vice Consul.

Embassy Affairs

Ambassador Ibrahim Nyei reports that during the period under review cordial working relations existed between the Ambassador and diplomatic staff assigned at the Embassy. He states that Mrs. Sarah Fyneah Dorbor was very supportive in her capacity as Minister Counselor and ably represented the Ambassador and the Embassy in representation of Government's interests in Doha.

Ambassador Nyei also commended Mr. Alieu Massaquoi, First Secretary and Consul for the valuable role played as a member of the Embassy's staff. His linguistic versatility of both English and Arabic immensely enhanced the work at the Embassy and reduced the high cost for translation. Mr. Emmanuel Larmeh, Second Secretary/Vice Consul continues to serve with dedication and with good moral standing.

In this reporting period, Ambassador Nyei reports that in order to accelerate the bilateral agreements with the State of Qatar, the Embassy took initiatives of submitting to Home Office in Monrovia, model copies of bilateral agreements entered between the State of Qatar and friendly Governments. These included Agreements on Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, and Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments. The primary purpose for these submissions, according to Ambassador, was to provide reference material to enhance Government's decision to enter similar agreements with the State of Qatar.

During the period under review, the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) convened in Doha from February 17-18, 2015. According to Ambassador Nyei, Government was represented by Mr. Mathew T.K. Flomo, Deputy Minister of Health; Dr. Adolphus Yieah, County Health Officer and a diplomatic staff from the Embassy.

Ambassador Nyei also reports that in view of the Ebola disease in Liberia, and its aftermath, the Embassy vigorously pursued efforts of re-establishing investment links with investors in Qatar. As a result of this investment drive to attract Qatari investors, a two man Qatari exploratory investment team visited Liberia to explore investment opportunities. The Embassy also engaged the Qatari Government to consider investment opportunities in various sectors in the Liberian economy. The awareness campaign of the Ebola disease launched by the Embassy in boosting Liberia's healthcare delivery system also proved fruitful with the acquiring from the Government of the State of Qatar in May 2015, seven ambulances which were shipped and received by the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador Nyei also reports that his Mission has embarked on plans to solicit support from the Qatari Foundation for the education sector in Liberia, and initiated discussions for the establishment of bilateral cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute and the Qatar Diplomatic Service.

Liberia-Qatar Relations

Since the opening of their respective Embassies in Qatar and Liberia, both countries continue to enjoy tremendous collaboration and cooperation. Relations between Liberia and Qatar remains cordial. The Embassy enjoyed good working relations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar and continues to promote the bilateral interests of Liberia in Qatar. Considering the fact that Qatar has an advanced, sustainable and diversified knowledge-based economy with great potential to carry out direct foreign investment in Liberia, the Embassy has, over the four years, intensified efforts to seek beneficial economic and development opportunities for Liberia through the facilitation and promotion of investment possibilities.

Qatar's Economic Situation

Natural gas reserves have made Qatar's economy one of the world's fastest growing economies. It has prospered in the several years with continued high real GDP growth. Throughout the global financial crisis, Qatari authorities sought to protect the local banking sector, with investments into domestic banks. GDP is driven largely by changes in oil prices and by investments in the energy sector. Economic policy is focused on developing Qatar's non-associated natural gas reserves and increasing private and foreign investment in non-energy sectors; but oil and gas still count for more than 50 percent of GDP or roughly 85 percent of export earnings, and 50 percent of Government revenues. Oil and gas have made Qatar the world's highest per capital income country and the country with the lowest unemployment rate. Proved oil reserves in excess of 25 billion barrels should enable continued output at current levels for about 57 years.

Qatar's proved reserves of natural gas exceed 25 trillion cubic meters, about 13 percent of the world total and third largest in the world. Qatar's successful 2022 World Cup bid is accelerating large-scale infrastructure projects such as Qatar's metro system, light rail system, and the construction of a new port, roads, stadiums and related sporting infrastructure. The newly built Hamad International Airport is expected to hold about 50 million passengers annually.

c) Embassy of the Republic of Liberia – Beijing, People's Republic of China

The Embassy is currently headed by Mr. D. Mckinley Thomas, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. Other members of the diplomatic staff include: Madam Catherine Watson Khasu, Minister Counselor; Mr. Jimmy G. Barchue, First Secretary; Mrs. Judy E. Nyangbe, Second Secretary and Mr. Moses Barclay, who joined the Embassy in the capacity of Second Secretary. Another officer, Mr. Mulbah Karwoi, who was appointed as First Secretary for Public Affairs, is expected to take up his assignment with the Embassy shortly.

Embassy Affairs

During the period under review, Ambassador Thomas reports that the Consular Section of the Embassy continues to perform its statutory functions such as the issuance of visas, authentication of notaries and quasi-legal documents, renewal of Liberian passports and issuance of laissez-passers, protection and welfare of Liberian citizens, their properties and interests, and performance of special services for other government agencies, when requested and authorized by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador Thomas, in his report, stressed the need for the construction of a Chancery in Beijing in view of the policy of the Chinese Government to allocate parcels of land to diplomatic missions desirous of constructing their own diplomatic premises in China. The Government of Liberia has no property in the People's Republic of China. The building being used as Chancery and the residence of the Ambassador including apartments for the four diplomatic officers are being rented by Government.

In the reporting period, Ambassador Thomas noted that 20 Liberian scholarship students arrived in Beijing. They have all gone on to study in various universities within the People's Republic of China. The Ambassador also reported that 31 of the students graduated in various disciplines from leading Chinese universities and have returned home. A further, 63 healthcare providers from Liberia benefited from a two months training program in Public Health Management, Disease Control and Prevention and Epidemic Prevention and Control Technology. They have all completed their training and returned to Liberia.

Exchange of Visits

It is pleasing to note in the Embassy's reporting, that there were several high level visits between Liberia and the People's Republic of China. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Wang Yi, at the head of a high-level Chinese delegation paid a solidarity visit to Liberia in the aftermath of the Ebola crisis. He was accompanied by the Director-General of the Bureau of African Affairs, Ambassador Lin Songtian, who was accredited to Liberia in 2003.

The Special Envoy of the Chinese Government for FOCAC, Ambassador Zhou Yuxiao, who served as Ambassador to Liberia from 2007 to 2010, visited Liberia to review ongoing FOCAC projects stalled as a result of the Ebola crisis and to establish preliminary frameworks for the just ended FOCAC Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa.

A high-powered Chinese business delegation comprised of some 500 Chinese fortune companies paid a fact finding visit to Liberia under the code name "Sino-Liberia Win-Win Visit". The purpose of the visit was to explore investment opportunities in Liberia. This visit was facilitated through the efforts of Ambassador Thomas.

Several high-level Liberian delegations also visited the People's Republic of China. Notably, the delegation was headed by Minister of State Without Portfolio, Ambassador Sylvester Grigsby, who was designated as Special Envoy by President Sirleaf with a Special Message delivered to the Government of the People's Republic of China. Other members of the delegation included: Mr. George Wisner, Executive Director, National Investment Commission; Mr. Augustus Jarret, Economic Advisor to the President; Mr. Ian Yhap, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Liberia Electricity Corporation; and Dr. Alexander Nuetah, Assistant Minister for Fiscal Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

The Embassy also reported that H.E. Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, at the head of a high level official delegation paid a State Visit to the Peoples' Republic of China from November 1-5, 2015. Her visit was to express the appreciation of the Government and people of Liberia to the Government and people of China for the enormous contributions rendered the Liberian Government and people during the Ebola crisis. Three bilateral agreements were signed during the President's visit. They included: the Maritime Transport Agreement; The Agreement for the Construction of a Ministerial Complex in Monrovia; and the Visa Waiver Agreement for holders of diplomatic passport from both countries. Other members of the President's delegation included, Finance Minister, Amara Konneh; Land Mines and Energy Minister, Patrick Sendolo; Minister of State Without Portfolio, Sylvester Grigsby; Liberia Maritime Authority Commissioner, Binyah Kessely; Chief Medical Officer of the Republic of Liberia, Dr. Francis Karteh.

Liberia-China Relations

Although he has been at the Beijing post for only over two years, Ambassador D. Mckinley Thomas remained optimistic of the cordial relations between Liberia and the People's Republic of China since resumption of the diplomatic relations was restored in 2003. This relation has been marked by mutual respect, cordiality, friendship, mutual trust, understanding, and cooperation in all fields of diplomacy geared towards a "win-win" situation for both sides. He views Government's decision to adhere to the "ONE CHINA POLICY" has brought great dividends and have strengthened Liberia's bilateral relations with China.

Evidencing this has been the signing of several bilateral agreements between the two countries to enhance economic and technical cooperation. The decision of the Chinese Government to construct a ministerial complex and annex to the Capital Building in Monrovia, the expansion of the vocational training center, and the awarding of numerous scholarships to Liberians to study at various Chinese universities are all concrete examples of fruits coming from Liberia's relentless pursuit of the "ONE CHINA POLICY".

d) Embassy of the Republic of Liberia – Tokyo, Japan

The Embassy of the Republic of Liberia in Tokyo, Japan is headed by Ms. Younger S. Telewoda, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. Composition of other diplomatic staffers include: Mr. David J. Saryee, Minister Counselor; Mr. Zukolee G. Kongo, Counselor; and Ms. Josephine B. Alade, Second Secretary/Vice Consul.

Embassy Affairs

During the period under review, Ambassador Telewoda reports that the consular section generated substantial funds from consular fees levied on consular activities at the Embassy through the issuance of 85 consular documents of the following categories: 18 diplomatic visas on gratis issued to Japanese Government officials; three official visas (gratis), 27 business visas, two tourism visas, and 13 travel documents were issued to Liberians, while 19 Liberian passports were processed for renewal.

Liberia- Japan Relations

Ambassador Younger S. Telewonda of our Mission in Tokyo reports that during the period covered by her report, there has been no significant changes to the warm and cordial relations between Liberia and Japan. In fact, the period has been characterized by continuity of cordiality and cooperation between her Mission and the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During this reporting period, Her Excellency President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, at the invitation of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, served as keynote speaker at the Second World Assembly for Women Conference (WAW 2015) under the theme: "WAW for All" which convened from August 28-29, 2015 in Tokyo, Japan. The Conference was aimed at realizing the potential of women in Japan and the world. The WAW conference was graced by world leaders and experts in various fields from 40 countries and International organizations.

It is worth mentioning that in Her Excellency, the President, used the opportunity to engage in bilateral discussions with Prime Minister Abe. Both leaders expressed their determination to further deepen the relationship between the two countries and reaffirmed their commitment in ensuring women's participation in societies all over the world. Both leaders also reaffirmed their coordination and cooperation, especially in the following areas: rebuilding and strengthening of health system in Liberia, consolidating peace and strengthening of economic relations.

President Sirleaf also used the opportunity, according to Ambassador Telewonda's report, to visit the National Institute of Infectious Diseases and the National Center for Global Health and Medicine, where she expressed Liberia's appreciation for the support given during the fight against the Ebola Virus Disease, and met with the president of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Mr. Akihiko Tanaka. Discussions with the JICA president were focused on the Japanese funded projects including the Somalia Drive and Liberia's Post-Ebola Recovery Plan. Her Excellency reiterated her appreciation to the Japanese Government for the support provided the Government of Liberia in the fight against the Ebola Virus Disease.

The Ambassador also reports that at the invitation of the Government of Japan, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Axel M. Addy paid an official trade visit to Japan from September 9-13, 2015. The Minister met with members of the Japan-AU Parliamentary Friendship League, headed by its chairman, Mr. Ichiro Aisawa, member of the House of Representatives; Mr. Takayuki Ueda, Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry; Mr. Seiji Kihara; State Minister for Foreign Affairs; Mr. Hoirosi Kato; Vice President of JICA and Mr. Toru Nakastani, President of JICS. He also met with several business executives and institutions including Mr. Taimei Watanabe, Deputy General Manager, Global Strategy and Business Development, Mitsubishi Corporation; Mr. Hitoshi Ito, Commissioner of Japan Patent Office; as well as officials of the Komatsu Techno Center and Sumida Small & Medium Enterprises Center.

During discussions with these dignitaries, Minister Addy expressed the Government of Liberia's profound thanks and appreciation for the numerous assistance the Government of Japan continue to render to the Government and people of Liberia and recounted the strong friendship that subsisted between the two countries especially the support from the Government and people of Japan in the fight against the Ebola Virus Disease in Liberia.

e) Embassy of the Republic of Liberia – Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The Embassy of the Republic of Liberia was reopened and is headed by Dr. Brahim D. Kaba, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. Currently, he has one diplomatic officer, Mr. Morieba K.Sano, First Secretary and Consul.

The Embassy is also supported by nine local staff including the following: Mr. Mahmoud L. Konneh, Accounts Officer; Mrs. Khadiji Hamouda, Executive Secretary; Mr. Mohammed Sekou Dolley, Ambassador's Driver; Mr. Vakaba Komara, Utility Driver; Mrs. Yvette Matabisi Yayani, Cook; Mr. Bangali Drame, Housekeeper; Mr. Ali B.K. Kenneh, Receptionist; Mr. Mustapha Thittassedi, Gardener (part time); and Mr. Zakaria Kamara, Cleaner.

Embassy Affairs

Ambassador Dr. Brahim D. Kaba reports that the reopening of our Embassy in Riyadh which was closed in 2010 has created a new chapter in Liberia's relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Embassy was officially re-opened on August 22, 2015 after the presentation of copies of his Letters of Credence to H.E Adel Bin Ahmad Al-Jobiar, the Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Ambassador Kaba, is amongst 21 newly accredited foreign Ambassadors expected to officially present Letters of Credence to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud in early January 2016.

Ambassador Kaba reports that the Embassy is currently working on a comprehensive census to identify Liberians living in the Kingdom. Current statistics show that the Liberian communities comprise mostly students and former students of Saudi universities, who are living in the Kingdom with their families. Preliminary estimates put the number between 1,000 to 2,000 Liberians. The majority of our citizens live in the cities of Madina, Riyadh and Jeddah.

Liberia-Saudi Arabia Relations

Prior to the opening of the Liberian Embassy in Riyadh on October 8, 1999, Liberia's diplomatic presence Saudi Arabia was in the commercial city of Jeddah under the jurisdiction of an Honorary Consulate General. Additionally, the Liberian Embassy in Cairo had oversight responsibility in the workings of the Honorary Consulate General functions in Jeddah.

During the period under review, Ambassador Kaba reports, current relationship between the two countries continue to remain cordial, despite limited exchanges of trade and investment. Notwithstanding, bilateral relations with Saudi Arabia reached new heights with the Saudi Fund for Economic Cooperation and the Islamic Development Bank playing major roles in the reconstruction drive of Liberia's Post Ebola Recovery Programs. The immense financial contribution of the Saudi Kingdom through the Islamic Development Bank toward the humanitarian needs of the three West African countries affected with the Ebola Virus in the tune of US\$36 million cannot be over emphasized. Negotiations for Saudi Arabia's participation in funding major projects in Liberia such as infrastructural rehabilitation of the runway of the Roberts international Airport and the paving of the Gbarnga-Medicoma highway is ongoing.

The Ambassador is of the view that the reopening of the Mission in Saudi Arabia would yield promising results in attracting potential Saudi investors to Liberia's Post-Ebola Recovery Agenda. He is optimistic that Liberia-Saudi relations would continue to improve under his jurisdiction as Liberia's Ambassador in Saudi Arabia.

EUROPEAN MISSIONS

a) Embassy of the Republic of Liberia – London, United Kingdom

Liberia's diplomatic mission at the Court of St. James and Northern Ireland has concurrent accreditation to the Republic of Ireland, the Holy See, and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. It was headed by H.E. Ambassador Rudolf P. von Ballmoos as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (now deceased), and assisted by Ms. Genevieve A. Kennedy, Minister Counselor; Mr. Chester D. Barh, Counselor; Mr. J Napoleon Toquie, II, First Secretary and Consul; Mr. Morris S. Barsee, Second Secretary and Vice Consul; . Ms. Winifred Y.Gaye, Attaché; and Mr. Harry T. Conway, Officer-in-Charge and Attaché (Maritime Office).

Embassy Affairs

The Chargé d'Affaires, Genevieve A. Kennedy in her reporting highlighted the financial difficulties confronting the Embassy due to the exchange rate of the Pound (£) to the United States Dollar (\$) which she believes seriously affects the financial strength of the Embassy in meeting its financial obligations in London.

Mobilization for the eradication of the Ebola Virus in Liberia under the period of review, the Embassy notes provided a unique opportunity to assuring forums attended by Embassy officials to articulate the potentials of investment opportunities in Liberia, particularly at the African Union Economic & Investment Taskforce for African Heads of Missions and Business Council for Africa Export Credit Finance which took place in June, 2015.

The momentum in pushing Liberia's developmental agenda was also buttressed by the participation of the Vice President, Dr. Joseph N Boakai, in attending the Global African Investment Summit 2015, in London; a platform which presented the international guests, diplomatic community and members of the business community, a synopsis of Liberia's Post-Ebola readiness for the mutual benefit of the country and investors.

The Embassy, during the period under review, witnessed the death of its Head of Mission, H.E. Ambassador Rudolf Precious von Ballmoos, leaving a void in the Liberian Foreign Service. The late Ambassador von Ballmoos was an outstanding career Foreign Service Officer. He died on December 17, 2015.

Liberia- United Kingdom Relations

The Chargé d'Affaires, Genevieve A Kennedy, reports that as one of the oldest African Embassies in London, our Mission continues to maintain a steady course in the furtherance and maintenance of those long standing ties between Her Majesty's Government and Liberia's.

United Kingdom's Political and Economic Situation

On May 7, 2015, the people of the United Kingdom went to the polls to elect their next Prime Minister along with Members of the 56th Parliament. This election was the first general election to be held at the end of a fixed term of Parliament following the enactment of the Fixed-term Parliament Act of 2011.

Having governed in coalition with the Liberal Democrats since 2010, the Conservatives won 331 seats and 36.9 percent of the total vote; this time winning a majority of 15 seats. The British polling organizations began an inquiry into the substantial variance between opinion polls and the actual results. This led to the formation of the first Conservative Government since 1992.

David Cameron became the first Conservative Prime Minister to be re-elected immediately after the full term with a larger popular vote share since 1900. The Labour Party, led by Edward Miliband, won 232 seats with 30.4 percent of the vote cast; thus, leading to its worst result since 1992.

During the period under review, the British economy grew faster than was initially thought in the opening month of the year, but still suffered a marked slowdown compared to the end of 2015. The Office for National Statistics reported that the gross domestic product (GDP) rose 0.45 in the first quarter from the previous three months.

b) Embassy of the Republic of Liberia – Paris, France

The Liberian Embassy near Paris, France, with concurrent accreditation to Switzerland, Hellenic Republic of Greece, and the Kingdom of Spain, is headed by Dr. C. William Allen, Ambassador, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. Other diplomatic staff members are: Ms. Raddie T. Perry, Economic Counselor; Mrs. Agnie Lavela von Ballmoos, Political Counselor; and Mr. James Estrada Ammon, Second Secretary/Vice Consul. Mr. Isaac C. Yeah, is seconded by the Ministry of Information, Culture Affairs and Tourism as Minister Counselor for Press and Public Affairs. Mr. Francis R. Grant, First Secretary/Consul joined the Paris Mission team during the third quarter of 2015.

Embassy Affairs

During the period under review, Ambassador Allen reports that the consular section performed its statutory functions in keeping with its mandate. Consular officers participated in the interviewing of presumed Liberians residing in Switzerland who applied for asylum status in that country. The meeting was convened from December 2-4 in Bern, Switzerland, with the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM), Directorate for International Cooperation Return Division.

According to the Ambassador's report, the SEM presented 15 candidates who declared themselves to be Liberian citizens when they entered Switzerland. At the end of the interview, Liberian consular officers

recognized only one candidate to be a bona fide Liberian citizen. The candidate expressed his desire to take advantage of the Return Assistance Program package offered by the Federal Department of Justice and Police (FDJ) and the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM).

In the reviewing period, the consular section reported the processing of 209 visa application requests for travels to Liberia. Seventy-two (72) of the applicants were diplomatic/official/gratis, while 137 applicants were business/ordinary/visiting.

Also in the recording period, Ambassador Dr. C. Williams Allen reports that the French capital was the centre of the world stage when it hosted the 21st Session of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change Conference (COP21/PARIS 2015). A major Global Summit on Climate Change which brought together 170 countries including Liberia. The Summit sought to provide a framework towards a common goal in tackling global warming. The principal objective was to ensure temperature levels fall below two degrees Celsius globally.

It is worth mentioning in the Ambassador's report, Liberia's delegation to the conference was headed by the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Mr. Amara M. Konneh, who delivered Liberia's position in a statement at the High-Level Segment of the Conference on December 7, 2015.

With a view of attracting foreign investment to Liberia, the Ambassador reported that his Mission on September 6, 2015, held a meeting with the Alliance Francais Pour UNE Huile De Palme Durable, seeking potential partnership between Liberia and the French Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil. The outcome of that meeting provided a framework for the France Alliance to consider the setting up of a local project in Africa in which Liberia could be the first choice for implementation of the project.

Liberia-France Relations

Ambassador Dr. C. William Allen reports that the Franco-Liberian relationship continues to be strengthened in the spirit of cordiality and friendship towards each other and in partnership in seeking global peace and security in the World.

France's Political and Economic Situations

The French capital was the scene of several coordinated terrorist attacks on the French population. During the period under review, the Charlie Hebdo massacre in January of 2015 that left twelve persons at the offices of the Satirical magazine dead in Paris. This was followed days later with two shootings at a suburban Kosher market, with the attempted attack on a Paris-bound high-speed train that resulted in terrorism charges for one man. These attacks brought into question the security lapses of the French security forces and concerns raised amongst French officials and security experts on the effectiveness of country's security mechanisms.

On November 13, 2015, there were seven coordinated attacks by terrorists resulting in the lost of 129 lives. French President Francois Hollande vowed to make the perpetrators pay for the acts committed on French soil. Mechanisms to re-evaluate French domestic security was put into place.

The first re-evaluation of the French domestic security approach began in January after the Chalie Hebdo attack. In addition to the deaths of the 12 people in that instance, four more people were killed two days

later in a related hostage situation by a friend of the Charlie Hebdo attackers. The violence rocked not just France but all of Europe, inciting fear across the continent of similar attacks.

c) Embassy of the Republic of Liberia – Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany

The Liberian Embassy near Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany is accredited to Denmark, Austria, Sweden, Norway, and Finland. The Embassy is headed by Ms. Ethel Davis, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. Other diplomatic staff members are: Ms. Comfort Swengbe, Minister Counselor and Deputy Chief of Mission; Mrs. Sophia Togba-Mawlue, First Secretary & Consul (recalled on December 23); Mr. Burgess Nimely, Second Secretary & Vice Consul and Mr. Samolu B. Cooper, Passport Attaché.

Embassy Affairs

During the period under review, Ambassador Davis reports that her Mission took initiatives in her assigned jurisdiction to solicit numerous assistance for the fight against the Ebola disease in Liberia. Through her rigorous campaigning, she was able to receive a 40ft container of donated medicine, medical equipment and hospital beds, donated by PFM Medical Ag. of Koln, Germany and SCIVAs Krankenhaus St. Josef near Frankfurt, Germany. This gesture was made possible through the assistance of a member of German Parliament, Thomas Stritzi. In addition, a consignment of 700,000 packets of the drug “Ixprim” was received and shipped to Liberia in February, 2015.

In the recording period, the Ambassador also reported that the consular section issued the following categories of visas: diplomatic, official, visitor, and business. In addition, they authenticated travel documents to verify the nationality of individuals claiming to be Liberians. Their travels are usually based upon the request of the immigration officers of those countries under the Mission’s jurisdiction.

Like our other European Missions, Ambassador Davis noted the difficulties faced by her Mission relating to the exchange rate of the US dollars to the Euro (€). This according to her is posing serious financial problems for the Embassy and hopes that this issue could be addressed by Government. She also noted, operational funds provided to her Mission is limited in scope, as the cost for operating an Embassy in Europe is increasing.

Liberia-Germany Relations

Ambassador Ethel Davis of our Mission in Berlin reports that during the period under the review, relations subsisting between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Liberia remain harmonious. The Federal Foreign Office continues to give assistance and cooperation to the Embassy in the discharge of its responsibilities.

This state of affairs, according to the Ambassador, contributed immensely to successful bilateral discussions between President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and German Chancellor, Angela Merkel during President Sirleaf’s visit to Germany during the period under the review.

Ambassador Davies reports that the German Government took concrete steps in supporting Liberia’s reconstruction programs through its development cooperation, specifically in the energy sector for the

Mount Coffee Hydro rehabilitation project in the country. The German Government through its developmental agency, GTZ, has ongoing projects in Liberia, mainly in food security, capacity development in the transport sector, energy and resource governance.

It is pleasing to note that the German Government, in addition to its assistance for fight against Ebola, is currently reviewing other measures in supporting Liberia's healthcare delivery system.

d) Embassy of the Republic of Liberia – Brussels, Belgium

The Embassy of Liberia in Brussels, the Kingdom of Belgium is concurrently accredited to the European Union and the Benlux countries - Royal Netherlands and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg - is headed by Dr. Isaac W. Nyenabo, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. He is ably assisted by Ms. Konah Moore, Second Secretary/Vice Consul; Mr. Prince C. Maxwell, Second Secretary/Vice Consul; and Mr. Samolu B. Cooper, Passport Attaché.

Embassy's Affairs

During the period under review, the Ambassador Nyenabo reports that he assumed his official duties in May, 2015 after the presentation of Letters of Credence to the King of Belgium, His Majesty Philippe on April 28, 2015. The Ambassador notes in his report that the Embassy is understaffed to adequately carry out its functions in view of various activities associated with its tasks relating to the European Union, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Groups of States (ACP) and other International Organizations in countries to which it is accredited. He holds the view that Government should seriously consider augmenting the staff at the Embassy.

In the recording period, the consular section of the Embassy, the Ambassador reports, experienced a low turnout in the request for visa applications at the Embassy, mainly due to the resurgence of the Ebola Virus Disease in Liberia.

The Ambassador reports that Government owns a vacant land, situated at 18, Avenue des Touristes, 1640 Rhodes-Saint -Genese, Belgium. It has cost the Liberian Government €3,000(euros) or US\$3,600 yearly to maintain the land. The Embassy was instructed by Government to have experts evaluate the land and according to the experts, it is valued from €250,000 to €300,000 (euros). In this connection, the Ambassador has advised that Government to consider selling the property and augment the proceeds to purchase a suitable building as residence for the Ambassador.

The Ambassador further reports that his Mission received US\$92,400 representing two years rent for the relocation of the Chancery. In this connection, the Embassy was relocated to an ideal diplomatic enclave located on Rue Archimede 11. It is also important to mention the unresolved issue regarding the property of the Embassy located on Avenue Cheateau 50, 1081, Brussels. Although Government has paid more than eighty percent of the cost of the premises, an alleged owner, Mr. Vincent Van Der Boagaet claims that he paid €50,000 (euros) during a public bid for the building and is requesting that the Liberian Government pay him over €180,000 (euros) or US\$216,000 before relinquishing the title deed to Government, according to the Ambassador report.

In an effort to promote trade and commerce for sustainable economic development for Liberia, the Ambassador reports that the Embassy succeeded in facilitating and organizing two trade Mission Conferences which was held in Liberia on July 6 and in the Netherlands, on November 30, 2015.

During the period under review, Ambassador Nyenbo further reported that Her Excellency Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf attended a Summit organized by the European Union on the Ebola crisis with the view of creating global awareness and exchanging of ideas in tackling the Ebola virus epidemic in addition to pledging financial assistance to the three West African countries affected by the Ebola Virus Disease.

e) Permanent Mission of the Republic of Liberia – Geneva, Switzerland

The Liberian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva is being headed by Mr. Paul Tate, as Charge d'Affaires.

Permanent Mission's Activities:

Chargé d' Affaires Paul Tate of the Liberia's Permanent Mission reports that the Mission represented Government in all activities at the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva including attending all weekly African Union meetings concerning Health, Human Rights, Trade, Justice and Labor matters and coordinated with other African Missions on all actions being undertaken within the scope of activities at these gatherings.

Chargé d'Affaires Tate further reports that the Mission actively served as liaison between the Liberian delegation from the Ministry of Commerce and International Organizations such as the W.T.O., UNCTAD and I.T.C. during the delegation's visit to Geneva.

It is worth mentioning that Chargé d'Affaires Tate reports that the Mission attended regular briefings on the IFRC response plan for West Africa and accompanied the Deputy Minister of Health/Chief Medical Officer, Dr Francis Ketehe at the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent from December 8-10, 2015.

C. DEPARTMENT OF PROTOCOL

The Office of the Chief of Protocol, Republic of Liberia, has the following deputies: Ms. Antoinette M. Wolo, Charles H.V. Allen, Jr., Esther Lloyd Menyongar, Mary Lee Jawo, Evelyn A. Matthews and Lawrence Amajie.

During the period under review, Ms. Wolo and Mr. Allen acted as Chief of Protocol, Republic of Liberia respectively, when Ambassador Rufus Dio Neufville was relieved of his post as Chief of Protocol, Republic of Liberia, and Ms. Wolo had to take maternal leave. The Office reports that within the international realm, it continues to play an important role.

Liberia maintained very strong, cordial and harmonious relations with countries with which it has diplomatic relations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also maintained regular contacts with diplomatic

missions, the consular corps and international organizations accredited near Monrovia, and the relations with these missions remain as strong and cordial as ever.

Liberia, for the most part of the period under review, maintained 26 Diplomatic and Consular Missions abroad, spanning over the African, Asian, European, and the American continents. In order to manage, finance, support and maintain Liberia's Foreign Service most effectively, the Government of Liberia decided to strengthen and centralize a few of these missions according to regions and vital national and other interests.

Here in Monrovia, a total of 62 diplomatic missions and missions of international, regional and sub-regional organizations maintained their representation in Liberia. There are 40 diplomatic missions in Liberia; out of which 27 are embassies and 13 are consular corps.

Full Listing of the Diplomatic Corps in Liberia

Order of Precedence of the Diplomatic Missions Accredited to Liberia with Residence at Monrovia

H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye Dore
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of **Guinea** and
Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps

H.E. Mr. Beng 'Yela Augustine Gang
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of **Cameroon**

H.E.Mr. Kodjo Asimeng Wadee
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of **Ghana**

His Excellency Archbishop Miroslaw Adamczyk
Apostolic Nunciature of the **Vatican**

H.E.Mr. Ralph Timmermann
Ambassador and Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the
Federal Republic of **Germany**

H.E. Mr. Joel Godeau
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of **France**

H.E. Mr. Andre' Luiz Azevedo Dos Santos
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the
Federative Republic of **Brazil**

H.E.Mr. Mohammad Ismail Al Emadi
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of **Qatar**

H.E. Mr. Zhang Yue
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of **China**

H.E. Mr. Brima Acha Kamara
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of **Sierra Leone**

H.E. Mr. David Belgrove
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Kingdom of **Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

H.E. Ms. Lena Nordström
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of **Sweden**

H.E. Mr. Alaa Khairat Issa
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Arab Republic of **Egypt**

H.E. Mr. Vanapalan Punjanathan Moodley
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of **South Africa**

H.E. Dr. Kouakou Feni
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of **Cote d'Ivoire**

Ambassador (Rtd.) Mark Boulware
Ad-Hoc Ambassador
Embassy of the **United States of America**

H.E. Farid Zarif
Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the **United Nations**

H.E. Mr. Babatunde Olanrewaju Ajisomo
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the
Economic Community of West African State (**ECOWAS**)

H.E. Ms. Tina Intelmann
Ambassador/Head of the Delegation of the **European Union**

Mrs. Okitundi Ayaki Omba Marie -Helene
Charge d'Affaires, "en pied"
Embassy of the Democratic Republic of **Congo**

Mr. Fadi Zein
Charge d'Affaires, a.i.
Embassy of the Republic of **Lebanon**

Mrs. Franziskia Voegtli
Counselor-In-Charge
Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development

Madam Anna O'Huadhaigh Basaibes
Charge d'Affairs, a.i.
Embassy of the Sovereign Order of **Malta**

Mr. Mohammed Tahir
Charge d'Affairs, a.i.
Embassy of the Federal Republic of **Nigeria**

Mrs. Nina Kristin Snyder
Charge d'Affairs, a.i.
Embassy of **Norway**

Mr. Yordenis Despaigne Vera
Charge d'Affairs, a.i.
Diplomatic Office of the Republic of **Cuba**

Mr. Prosper Addo
Officer-In-Charge
African Union Liaison Office in Liberia

Honorary Consul General

Mr. Upjit Singh Sachdeva
Honorary Consul General of India

Mr. Horst Wallwitz
Honorary Consul General of Norway

Mr. Mohamed J. A. Idriss
Honorary Consul General of Syrian Arab Republic

Mr. Manuel Cuenca
Honorary Consul General of Spain

Mr. Sabourou Bah
Honorary Consul General of Mali

Mr. Mustapha A. Sidee
Honorary Consul General of Mauritania

Mr. Seye Malick
Honorary Consul General of Senegal

Cllr. Musa Dean
Honorary Consul General of the Russian Federation

Mr. Edwin Juah
Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Korea

Mr. Frederic Vloeberghs
Honorary Consul General of the Kingdom of Belgium

Mr. Lusine Kamara
Honorary Consul General of the Kingdom of Turkey

Mr. Henri Oliver Harmon
Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia

Mr. Markku Vesikko
Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Finland

Heads of International Organizations

Mr. Antonio Vigilante
UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Representative
Dr. Kamil K. Kamaludden
Country Director
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

Mr. Sheldon Yett
Resident Representative
United Nations International Children Fund (UNICEF)

Prof. Hassana Alidou
Resident Representative
United Nations Education & Scientific Organization (UNESCO)

Dr. Alex Gasafira
Resident Representative
World Health Organization (WHO)

Ms. Ndeye Ndiougue Ndour
Residence Representative
United Nations High Commission for Refugee (UNHCR)

Mr. Sory Ibrahim Ouane
Country Director
World Food Program (WFP)

Dr. Oluremi Sogunro
Resident Representative
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Mr. Marc T.B.K. Abdala
Country Representative
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Ms. Awa N'Diaye-Seck
Country Representative
UN Women

Mr. Julien Nicolas Lerisson
Head of Mission
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Dr. Charles Amo-Yartey
Resident Representative
International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Mr. Inguna Dobraja
Country Manager/Resident Representative
World Bank Office in Liberia

Mr. Frank Ajibola Ajilore
Resident Representative/Head of Mission
International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Mrs. Margarit Kilo
Resident Representative
African Development Bank (ADB)

Mr. Anthony Chan
Mission Director
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Mr. Salvatore Sortino
Chief of Mission
International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Mr. Charles Asafo Adjei
Officer -in- Charge
International Labor Organization (ILO)

Mr. Maki Okusa
Head of Office
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Mr. Mamady Kaba
Secretary-General
Roberts Flight Information Region

Mr. Kevin Fleming
Country Director
U.S. Peace Corps

Mr. Guy Ablefoni
Director of Administration
German International Organization (GIZ)

Presentation of Letters of Credence by Ambassadors

The Office of the Chief of Protocol reports that the President of the Republic of Liberia was pleased to receive the following Ambassadors for the purpose of presenting their Letters of Credence from their respective Heads of States and government accrediting them near this Capitol, thus ensuring the maintenance of friendly relations:

January 19, 2015

Her Excellency Tina Intelmann
Ambassador/Head of Delegation of the European Union

March 26, 2015

His Excellency Thomas Listcher
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Swiss Confederation, with Residence in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

Her Excellency Penbe Nersin Bayazit
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Turkey, with Residence in Accra, Ghana

His Excellency Mr. Dmitry Y. Suslov
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation, with Residence in Accra, Ghana

Her Excellency Ms. Claudia Turbay
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Colombia, with Residence in Accra, Ghana

June 3, 2015

His Excellency Mr. David Belgrove
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland

June 25, 2015

Her Excellency Madam Caroline Gudenus
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Austria, with Residence in Abuja,
Nigeria

His Excellency Mr. Alfonso Di Riso
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Italy, with Residence in Abidjan, Cote
d'Ivoire

Her Excellency Dr. Sinead Walsh
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Ireland, with Residence in Freetown,
Sierra Leone

His Excellency Mr. Noh Kyu-duk
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea, with Residence in Abidjan, Cote
d'Ivoire

His Excellency Mr. Harry Purwanto
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia, with Residence in Abuja,
Nigeria

His Excellency Mr. Saud Bin Saad Al-Thobaiti
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with Residence in
Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

October 19, 2015

Her Excellency Ms. Lena Nordström
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Sweden

His Excellency Mr. Alaa Khaira Issa
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Arab Republic of Egypt

November 26, 2015

Her Excellency Ms. Patricia McCullagh
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Canada with Residence in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Abdellahi El Vilaly
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania with Residence in
Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

Her Excellency Ms. Pirjo Soumela-Chowdhury
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Finland, with Residence in Abuja,
Nigeria

His Excellency Mr. Babikir Elsiddig Mohammed Elamin
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Sudan , with Residence in Accra,
Ghana

His Excellency Mr. Emmanuel Mehl
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Israel, with Residence in Accra, Ghana

Her Excellency Mrs. Mari de los Angeles Aguirre
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Mexico, with Residence in Accra,
Ghana

Friday, November 27, 2015

Her Excellency Ms. Tove Degnbol
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Denmark

His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Fadel Khalaf
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Kuwait

His Excellency Mr. Vanapalan Punjanathan Moodley
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of South Africa

DEPARTURE OF AMBASSADORS

The Office of the Chief of Protocol, Republic of Liberia reports that during the year under review, the following Ambassadors accredited near the Capitol were recalled by their respective Governments and Heads of International Organizations, thereby completing their tour of duty in Liberia.

H.E. Mr. Sameh Lotfi
Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt

H.E. Ms. Sofia Strand
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden

H.E. Mr. Jorge Fernando Lefebre Nicolas
Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba

His Excellency Kapiéletien Soro
Ambassador of the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire

H.E. Mr. Masilo Esau Mabeta
Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa

H.E. Ms. Sharon Bali
Ambassador of the State of Israel

H.E. Ms. Karin Landgren
Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) &
Coordinator of the United Nations Operations in Liberia

Major General/Dr. Julius Oketta
Head of Mission, ASEOWA
H.E. Mr. Khassim Diagne
Resident Representative, UNHCR

H.E. Ms. Deborah R. Malac
Ambassador of the United States of America

H.E. Mr. Oluwatoyin Solaja
Special Representative of the Chairperson of the AU Commission
And Head of the African Union Liaison Office in Liberia

H.E. Mrs. Chigozie Fedelia Obi-Nnadozie
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the
Federal Republic of Nigeria

As a gesture of appreciation for services rendered by those departing Ambassadors and Heads of International Organizations during their tour of duty, the President was pleased to direct the Minister of Foreign Affairs to tender a farewell reception/dinner in their honor, respectively; and also confer upon them Liberian Distinctions in the Humane Order of African Redemption and Star of Africa.

The President of the Republic of Liberia and Grand Master of the Orders of Distinctions conferred distinctions on the following citizens of the Republic of Liberia and distinguished personalities and institutions during the year 2015.

1. Dr. Walter T. Gwenigale - Grand Commander, Most Venerable Order of the Pioneers
Former Minister of Health and Medical Doctor
Distinguished & Dedicated Public Servant
2. Ambassador Charles Minor - Knight Great Band, Humane Order of African Redemption
Astute Statesman & Diplomat
Distinguished & Dedicated Public Servant
3. Dr. Francis N. Kateh - Grand Commander, Order of the Star of Africa
Chief Medical Officer, R.L.
4. Rev. Trevor Cockings - Grand Commander, Order of the Star of Africa
Humanitarian
5. Hon. Tolbert G. Nyenswah - Grand Commander, Order of the Star of Africa
Head Incident Management System & Dedicated Public Servant
6. Dr. Jerry Brown - Grand Commander, Order of the Star of Africa
Medical Doctor, ELWA Hospital
Distinguished & dedicated Public Servant

7. Dr. Kent Brantly - Grand Commander, Order of the Star of Africa
Medical Doctor and Humanitarian, Samaritan Purse
Distinguished & dedicated Public Servant
8. Dr. Gobah Logan - Grand Commander, Order of the Star of Africa
Medical Doctor, Bomi County Health Office
Distinguished & dedicated Public Servant
9. Dr. Wilmot Frank - Grand Commander, Order of the Star of Africa
Medical Doctor, Sinoe County Health Office
Distinguished & dedicated Public Servant
10. Dr. Soka Moses - Grand Commander, Order of the Star of Africa
Medical Doctor, JFK Memorial Hospital/MOD
Distinguished & dedicated Public Servant
11. Dr. Moses Massaquoi - Grand Commander, Order of the Star of Africa
Medical Doctor & Head of Case Management
Distinguished & dedicated Public Servant
12. ETA Beta Omega Chapter of - Grand Commander, Order of Star of Africa
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
13. Dr. Mosoka Fallah - Knight Grand Commander, Humane Order of African Redemption
Medical Doctor & Active Case Finder
Distinguished & dedicated Public Servant
14. Dr. Markandu Kanagasabai - Knight Grand Commander, Humane Order of African Redemption
Dental Surgeon, JFK Memorial Hospital
Distinguished & dedicated Public Servant
15. Dr. Philip Zochonis Ireland - Knight Grand Commander, Humane Order of African Redemption
Medical Doctor, JFK Memorial Hospital
Distinguished & dedicated Public Servant
16. Liberia Council of Churches- Knight Grand Commander, Humane Order of African Redemption
17. National Muslim Council of Liberia - Knight Grand Commander, Humane Order of African Redemption
18. The Chiefs & Elders of Liberia - Knight Grand Commander, Humane Order of African Redemption
19. Eta Epsilon Lambda Chapter #260 of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. - Knight Grand Commander, Humane Order of African Redemption

20. Honorable Saah Joseph - Knight Commander, Humane Order of African Redemption
Representative, Montserrado County
Distinguished & dedicated Public Servant
21. Firestone Natural Rubber Company - Knight Commander, Humane Order of African Redemption
22. Royal Air Maroc - Knight Commander, Humane Order of African Redemption
For continuous air services to Liberia
23. Brussels Airlines - Knight Commander, Humane Order of African Redemption
For continuous air services to Liberia
24. Press Union of Liberia - Knight Commander, Humane Order of African Redemption
25. Dr. Izuchukwu Cosmas Aroh - Commander, Order of the Star of Africa
Medical Doctor, Catholic Hospital/Survivor
Distinguished & dedicated Public Servant
26. Dr. Senga R. Omeonga - Commander, Order of the Star of Africa
Medical Doctor, Catholic Hospital/Survivor
Distinguished & dedicated Public Servant
27. Dr. Fanta Kibungu - Commander, Order of the Star of Africa
Medical Doctor, Catholic Hospital/Survivor
Distinguished & dedicated Public Servant
28. All Health Care Workers - Commander, Order of the Star of Africa
29. Dr. Emmanuel Dolo - Commander, Order of Star of Africa
Coordinator, Presidential Advisory Committee on
Ebola (PACE); Distinguished Public Servant
30. Mr. Samuel T. Nimley, Jr. - Commander, Order of Star of Africa
Distinguished & dedicated Public Servant
31. Mr. Mark Korvayan - Officer, Order of Star of Africa
Head of Ebola Burial Team
Distinguished & dedicated Public Servant
32. Ms. Barbara Bono - Officer, Order of Star of Africa
Ebola Survivor & Nurse
33. Mr. Joel N. Williams - Officer, Order of Star of Africa
Ebola Survivor & Administrator
St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital

Posthumous

1. Dr. Samuel Brisbane
Medical Doctor and Humanitarian
Distinguished Servant of Humanity
2. Dr. Abraham Borbor
Head, Internal Medicine, JFK Memorial Hospital
Distinguished Servant of Humanity
3. Dr. John Taban Dada
Gynecologist and Surgeon
Distinguished Servant of Humanity
4. Received by Catholic Hospital for
 - (a) Dr. Patrick Nshamdze
Hospital Director, Catholic Hospital
Distinguished & dedicated Public Servant
 - (b) Rev. Fr. Miquel (Spain)
Spanish Priest, St. Joseph Catholic Hospital
Dedicated Public Servant
 - (c) Rev. Sis. Chantel (DR Congo)
Nurse, St. Joseph Catholic Hospital
Dedicated Public Servant
 - (d) Bro. George Combey (Ghana)
Pharmacist, St. Joseph Catholic Hospital
Dedicated Public Servant
5. Dr. Thomas Scotland
Medical Director, JFK Memorial Hospital
Distinguished & dedicated Public Servant
6. All Health Care Workers who lost their lives during the period of Ebola for their bravery and services to humanity
Distinguished & dedicated Public Servants

In Greenville, Sinoe County

1. Mr. Peter Robert Toe – Knight Official, Humane Order of African Redemption
Professional Nurse and Public Servant
2. Mrs. Elizabeth D.K. Jallah - Dame Official, Humane Order of African Redemption

3. Mr. Joseph J. Toure – Knight Official, Humane Order of African Redemption
Teacher
4. Mr. Emmanuel Mombo Nagbe – Grand Commander, Humane Order of African Redemption

OTHER DECORATIONS

1. Thursday, July 2nd, 2015 - Outgoing United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) and Coordinator, United Nations Operations in Liberia, Madam Karin Landgren – Grand Commander, Order of the Star of Africa.
2. Tuesday, December 8, 2015 – Departing Ambassador of the United States of America, Her Excellency Deborah Ruth Malac – Grand Band, Order of the Star of Africa.

Executive Commissions

With the advice and consent of the Senate, the President was pleased to qualify during the period under review, the following officials of Government:

February, 2015

Honorable Isaac Wheyee Nyenabo, II

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Liberia to the Kingdom of Belgium, with concurrent accreditation over the Kingdom of Netherlands, Grand Duchy of Luxemburg and the European Union

June, 2015

Hon. Dr. Bernice T. Dahn
Minister of Health

Hon. George Werner
Minister of Education

Honorable William Gyude Moore
Minister of Public Works

Ambassador Jarjar M. Kamara
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Liberia to the Republic of Sierra Leone

Ambassador Dr. Brahim Diakity Kaba
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Liberia to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Hon. Dr. Francis Kateh
Deputy Minister/Health Services & Chief Medical Officer
Ministry of Health

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. There is the absolute need and necessity to effect a monumental increase in the budgetary appropriation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the next fiscal year, 2016 -2017 to enable the Ministry accomplish the following urgent tasks:
 - a) To strengthen and empower the Home Office adequately by financially enabling it to acquire all its needs to effectively carry out its statutory mandate of implementing and assisting the President in the formulation of Liberia's Foreign Policy goals and objectives.
 - b) To begin the effective amortization of Government's indebtedness to the Foreign Service, including arrears of contribution to international, regional and sub-regional organizations.
 - c) To offset most, if not all, of the salary arrears owed Foreign Service Officers and other debts owed to our Foreign Missions.
 - d) To allow for the effective and expeditious implementation of the Ministry's current restructuring exercise of the Liberian Foreign Service intended to make it effective, productive and reflective largely of Government's new development oriented foreign policy posture.

2. Persistent delays in remitting funds to the Missions for operation, payment of salaries and rent for staff continue to be a problem. Adequate measures are required to be taken to remedy this situation, as often times, staff members incur extra charges and fines due to delay in rental payments.

That the remittance of rental allowances for the residence of the Ambassador, the Chancery and apartments of the diplomatic officers be made on a six-month basis as stipulated by the Tenancy Agreements. The Ambassadors and diplomats undergo much humiliation whenever rental payments are overdue or late, even for one day. Landlords expect to be paid in full on the first day of the three-month circle. Landlords telephone constantly in advance or come to the Embassy to demand payment; many times stating in the presence and hearing of local staff and visitors that "Liberia is the "only" Country that is almost always late in payments".

3. Given the consistent rise in the cost of living around the world, we strongly recommend that staff remuneration be increased to commensurate with the increasing cost. That funding for operation and other payments for goods and services be transmitted in the currency of that country; that the Ministry considers the payment of allowances to diplomatic staff; considers the payment of health and education allowances for dependents of diplomats; and that the Ministry considers the payment of employment benefits to local staff as the Embassy is contravening the various countries labor laws and also the Vienna Convention as it relates to diplomatic missions obeying the laws of the host country.

4. It is recommended that Government could consider purchasing properties (Residence and Chancery) in countries where Liberia has diplomatic representation. This course of action is necessary in order to save millions of United States dollars that Government pays annually as rent. Also, the acquisition of properties could be done on a regional basis annually or bi-annually.
5. In order to adequately tap on the enormous resources made available by friendly governments, it is important for Government to consider appointing Honorary Consul Generals at some of our missions with concurrent accreditations to save cost.
6. There is an urgent need for the "Diplomatic Pouch" System to be re-established to permit all Liberian Missions abroad to effectively communicate with Home Office relative to important/confidential documents.
7. The need is very high for Monrovia to reciprocate the diplomatic overtures of Brasilia and Havana, which have full resident diplomatic missions in Liberia. The opening of the mission in Brazil is long overdue and needs to be fast tracked. It is also important that Liberia's Ambassador to Cuba presents credentials during this fiscal year.
8. A survey should be conducted of the salary and benefit packages enjoyed by local and diplomatic staff members of the embassies of countries in the West African sub-region. The results of the survey could be used as a benchmark to address salary complaints. In addition, it may be prudent for the Ministry to consider conducting a review of the laws of all local and federal jurisdictions in Europe and other countries in which Liberian missions operate so as to clearly understand and be in compliance with the laws relating to the provision of health insurance coverage and salaries to local employees.
9. It is strongly recommended that staffers who serve a mission for over three (3) years be reassigned to another mission to enhance productivity.
10. The current practice of appointing inexperienced personnel to low or mid-level diplomatic positions at missions be reviewed and steps taken to utilize career diplomats to uplift the personnel level at Liberian Missions.
11. The remuneration of diplomats, especially in the countries where cost of living (rent, insurance, etc.) are high should be reviewed and adjusted. The heads of missions continue to under report fees from consular activities to meet these high costs of living abroad.
12. Efforts should be made to begin to implement the rotation of Foreign Service Officers as outlined in the law. The process can be done incrementally by including budgetary appropriations for this purpose each year.
13. It is very important to revisit the rotation of ambassadors in order to enhance accountability and transparency at our foreign missions.

VII. NECROLOGY

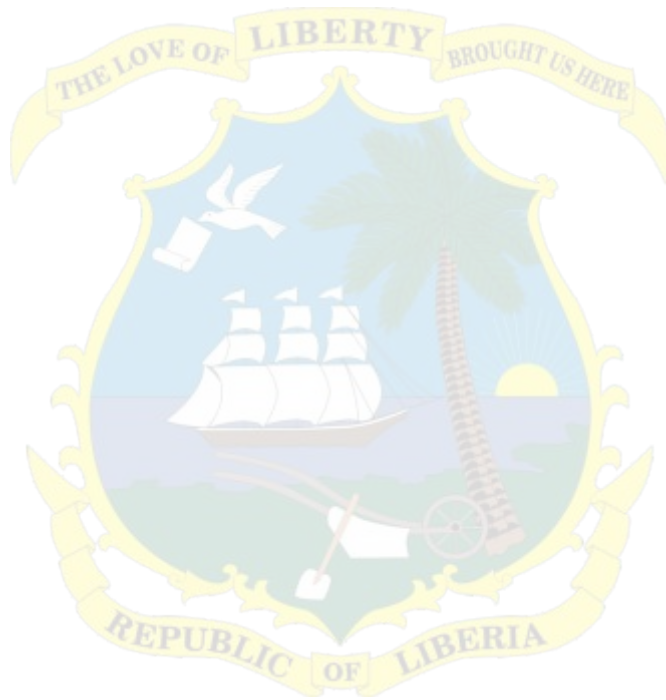
During this reporting period, January – December 2015 the country lost dedicated and loyal officials of government and prominent citizens when they departed from labor for a peaceful repose. Those for whom Official Gazettes were issued were as follows:

1. Mr. Philip J.L. Brumskine
Private Secretary to President William V.S. Tubman
2. Retired Colonel Charles Gyude Bryant, Sr.
Provost Marshall General, Ministry of National Defense
3. His Honor, Counsellor Johnnie N. Lewis
Former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Liberia
4. Mrs. Willamette Birch Davies
Former Administrative Assistant and Superintendent respectively, Sinoe County
5. Mrs. Bankie Manjah Mathies-Gbedze
Former Sales Consultant, Sunset Beach Resort, Marshall, Margibi County
6. Madam Williametta Eastman B. Jordan
Former Director of Nursing, Catherine Mills Rehabilitation Center, Monrovia, Montserrado County
7. Mr. Moses Kai
Former Superintendent, Juazon Statutory District, Sinoe County
8. Honorable Victor N. B. Walker
Former Superintendent, Maryland County
9. Honorable Stephen T. Brapoh Sr.
Former Chief Accountant, Department of State (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
10. Colonel Nathaniel Dio Nmah Baker
Director, Special Security Service
11. Honorable Lewis David Harris
Township Commissioner, Harrisburg Township
12. Mr. Lee Sonny Mason
National Coordinator, National Implementation Management Support Unit and Former Assistant Minister for Regional and Sectorial Planning respectively
13. Mr. William Tae Bruce Sr.
Former Chief Plumbing Inspector, Department of Public Works

14. Mr. Nicholas A. Perkins
Senior Protection Officer (LRRRC)
15. Honorable Henry J. Weeks
Former Member of the House of Representatives for Careysburg District
16. Mother Ellen Brandy Tate
Former Dietician, Monrovia Consolidated School System (MCSS)
17. Mother Lucretia Jenneba Weade Collins Thomas
Former Secretary, Department of Interior (Now Ministry of Internal Affairs)
18. Honorable John Tozay Yorlay
Former Member of the National Transitional Legislative Assembly of Nimba County.
19. Honorable Joseph Fatoma Kamara
Former Regional Agricultural Coordinator.
20. Honorable Thomas Dominic Nmah Boker
Former Minister, Ministry of Public Works.
21. Dr. Daniel Toweh
Former Chief Medical Officer, AFL
22. Honorable Emmanuel O. Gardiner
Former Minister, Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs
23. Mother Malvenia King Okai
Former Classroom Instructor, Hartford Public School and Principal, Betley Public School,
Respectively Grand Bassa County.
24. Honorable Ferris F.S. Willie, Sr.
Former Executive Secretary, and Political Advisor-Officer of the Senior Senator of Rivercess
County
25. Honorable Jones J. Wariebi Sr.
Founder and Sons Corporation, Bushord Island Monrovia
[Died - May 22, 2015; Buried - June 27, 2015]
26. Reverend Walter Dosser Richards
Former Deputy Minister, Education
27. Honorable Stanley Cox Blay
Former Head Photographer, Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs

28. Counsellor Moses A. Greenfield, Sr.
Former Defense Counsel, 14 Judicial Circuit Court, Maryland County
29. Sheik Kafumba Famod Konneh
Former Chairman, National Muslims Council of Liberia
30. Honorable John Woya Daidee
Former Clan Chief Gblor Clan, Tappita Statutory District, Nimba County
31. Honorable Joseph Gottieb Richards
Deputy Minister for Administration, Ministry of Lands Mines and Energy
32. Honorable Othello Daniel Warrick
Former Director of the Executive Protection Service and Deputy Minister for Administration,
Ministry of National Defense
33. Honorable William Kwesseh Ware, Sr.
Former Senator for Bong County
34. Honorable Manyu M. Kamara, Sr.
Former Senator for Bong County
35. Mother Verdumi Clarice Anna Morris-Swen
Former Chief Dietician. University of Liberia
36. Honorable Evelina Z. Quaqua
Former Circuit Judge, 16th Judicial Circuit Court, Gbarpolu County
37. Honorable Mother Frances Mayson
Civil Leader and Seamstress
38. Honorable Bestman Seamean Saydee
Commissioner, Juazon District, Sinoe County
39. Honorable Christopher Nah Tre Krote
Former Deputy Minister and Chief Auditor Ministry of Finance
40. Honorable Fofi Sahr Baimba, Sr.
Former Member of the House of Representatives for District #2, Lofa County.
41. Honorable Charles S. Dougbeh Neyan
Former District Commissioner, Gbeapo District, Lower Grand Gedeh County
42. Attorney John Tebli Wilson, Sr.
Former Acting Assistant Minister for Administration, Ministry of Health

43. Honorable Edward Wa-Valentine, Sr.
Former Director of Archives and Consultant, Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs
44. Honorable George Koukou
Former Senator of Nimba County and Former Speaker of the House of Representatives, National Transitional Legislative Assembly
41. Honorable John Hodo Manston, Sr.
Former Senator, Maryland County
40. H.E. Rudolf von Ballmoos
Former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Liberia to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, former Liberian Ambassador to the Republic of Ghana
41. H.E. J. Adolphus During
Former Chief of Protocol, Republic of Liberia



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