

**A**  
**PROCLAMATION**  
**BY THE PRESIDENT**

**WHEREAS**, it is virtuously befitting that a people and a nation, should recognize and pay homage to persons who contributively make significant impact for the installation of the State, and its perpetuity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Creation of the Republic of Liberia, out of the aspiration of the African and his Descendents was made possible by the combined efforts of Those who came to these shores with Those whom they met here, with Joseph Jenkins Roberts, arriving on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1829 with the Robert's Family, including his Mother, who wrote that they were "pleased with the Country and had not the least desire to leave" for any other place; and

**WHEREAS**, Joseph Jenkins Roberts was preeminent in fostering the Movement of the "Colony" to inspire all those concerned resulting in the Declaration of Independence of the Republic of Liberia on July 26, 1847, thus becoming "the Father of the Nation"; and

**WHEREAS**, under his Leadership as Governor from 1822 to 1847, and as President, from 1847 to 1855, and then, from 1871 to 1876, Liberia developed along the West African Coast from the Shebro River to the Pedro River, counting approximately 600 miles of seacoast; and

**WHEREAS**, under the role of an effective and objective Leadership, he substantiated many diplomatic, legal, political and social cornerstones for the continuation of the Republic of Liberia, which have remained as irrepressible and irreplaceable until today, from which our present Republic draws its strength in its independence and sovereign interactions with others of the Comity of Nations; and

**WHEREAS**, Joseph Jenkins Roberts, last Governor of the Colony, First President of the Republic of Liberia, Gentleman Farmer, who were among the first to cultivate coffee, corn, potatoes, cassava, and rice, with various fruit trees in Liberia, and who bestowed the 102 acres of land bearing his Coffee Farm on the Republic, to educate the Liberian Children, after his death in 1876, as a "Perpetual Foundation"; and

**WHEREAS**, it is right and proper for further remembrance of all the Foregoing and his other Endeavors in negotiating and concluding treaties with foreign powers, thus laying the strong Foundation of the Liberian Nation which has continued to endure for 162 years, and forever, inspiring the Third Session of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Legislature to pass an Act declaring each Birth Anniversary of the First President of Republic of Liberia, to be a NATIONAL HOLIDAY, as a mark of continuing respect, reverence and National Appreciation to honor the Memory of this Famous Statesman, Patriot, and Son of Liberia; and

**WHEREAS**, the life and achievements of Joseph Jenkins Roberts stand tall in the History of Liberia as a burning challenge to all Citizens, and People of the World, to emulate the higher and dignified instances of his courage, selflessness, neighborliness, loyalty, national appreciation and the principles of democracy, through studious education and Empirical Research:

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, by virtue of the authority in me vested, do hereby declare and proclaim Saturday, 15 March 2009, which marks the **SECOND CENTENNIAL BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF JOSEPH JENKINS ROBERTS**, to be observed properly and propitiously throughout the Republic as a **NATIONAL HOLIDAY**, in recognition of his invaluable sacrifices and services rendered as the Founding Father of this Nation.

FURTHER, I do request that all Government Offices, public buildings and business houses be closed on this day.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, IN THE CITY OF  
MONROVIA, COUNTY OF MONTERRADO THIS  
18<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, IN THE YEAR OF OUR  
LORD 2009, AND OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF  
THE REPUBLIC THE 162<sup>ND</sup>.**

**ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

**BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT**

**OLUBANKE KING-AKERELE  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**A**  
**PROCLAMATION**  
**BY THE PRESIDENT**

**WHEREAS**, it is befitting that a Day be set aside to memorialize those who have lived and died in the interest of their Nation, thereby keeping evergreen the noble deeds of sacrifices and selfless service rendered during their life time as their contribution to the onward march of the Country; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is also necessary that Citizens and Foreign Residents should themselves hold in cherish Remembrance the love and affection, the joy and satisfaction, and the constant caring which existed between the family members who once lived so dearly with them in this mortal world and are now gone to a peaceful repose; and

**WHEREAS**, a time should be set aside when all people of the nation, on one occasion, will call into Remembrance, the patriots and their loved ones, by making floral, prayerful and other tributes in Churches, in Cemeteries, at Monuments or in simple public religious concentration and private reverence of these heroic and familiar persons, who have gone to the great beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, National Legislature of the Republic of Liberia, realizing that such a **COMMEMORATION** be constantly made and kept in the minds of our Citizens, including our Youths and Foreign Residents of our Land to inspire them to greater measure of Service, Patriotism and Fidelity, did, by an Act approved 24th October 1916, declare and announce the **SECOND WEDNESDAY** of each year, "**DECORATION DAY**", to be observed as a **NATIONAL HOLIDAY**:

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF**, President of the Republic of Liberia, by virtue of the Authority in Me vested by the Laws of the Land, do hereby Proclaim the Observance of the **SECOND WEDNESDAY**, (11<sup>th</sup> March 2009) ensuing as "**DECORATION DAY**," and I hereby order said Day, to be strictly observed as a **NATIONAL HOLIDAY** throughout the Republic, with all Government Offices, public and Business Houses, Marketplaces and Entertainment Centers closed on this Day, which is not to be desecrated in any way, to enable the public to plan or lay floral tributes, hold prayers and worship occasions, and otherwise execute a Remembrance Program for those of our patriots and loved ones gone before.

**FURTHER, I**, also order, that the National Ensign be flown from all public buildings, Military Camps, Paramilitary Centers and Posts, and Private Residences, in the manner following manner:

1. From 6: a. m. to 12 noon at **FULL-STAFF**;
2. From 12:01 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at **HALF-STAFF**;
3. The National emblem to be struck at 6:00 p.m.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, IN THE CITY  
MONROVIA, COUNTY OF MONTSERRADO THIS  
8<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, IN THE YEAR OF OUR  
LORD 2009, AND OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF  
THE REPUBLIC THE 162<sup>ND</sup>.**

**ELLEN JOHNSON SIREAF  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

**BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT**

**OLUBANKE KING- AKERELE  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**A  
PROCLAMATION  
BY THE PRESIDENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Declaration of Political and Legal Equality for Women of Liberia was first initiated during the Administration of President William V. S. Tubman by the constant demands of Brave and Determined Women, through Peaceful Street Demonstrations, Public Speeches, the use of Placards and Posters and other actions, in their overwhelming call for **GENDER EQUALITY**; and,

**WHEREAS**, this Struggle for the Equity of treatment of the Liberian Woman within the political and social domains was finally realized, after a Century of National Existence as a nation, when Liberia, in 1957, through an Act of the Legislature of the Republic, passed into Law a universal, political suffrage and equality platform for all women of Liberia, which was the forerunner of the universal demand for **GENDER EQUALITY**, emphasizing Women's Rights; and,

**WHEREAS**, these actions for political and legal suffrage of women, emphasizing Gender Equity, has gained international acclamation, as contained in the United Nations Resolution 32/142 adopted in December, 1997; and,

**WHEREAS**, progress is being made by the National Committees of the Inter-African Committee on Harmful Traditional Practices, with their affiliates and Partners across the World, in calling on Governments, United Nation Agencies, Parliamentarians, NGOs, and the Donor Community to make a greater commitment to ensure the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Government of the Republic of Liberia, cognizant of its duty under the Constitution to ensure Gender Equality free of discrimination, has ratified the Convention on "**The Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women**", reflecting its commitment to Gender equality and equity through its National Programs; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Women of Liberia will join their Counterparts, worldwide, in working assiduously to promote national, and, global peace and stability; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Commemoration of this year's International Women's Day will be celebrated on Monday, 9 March 2009, to coincide with the Launch of the Liberia National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325, under the **Global THEME: "WOMEN AND MEN UNITE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS"**;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF**, President of the Republic of Liberia, by virtue of the Authority in Me vested, do hereby declare Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2009 as “**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY**”, and do call upon all citizens and residents within the Territorial Confines of the Republic, to observe the Day as a Working Holiday, on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2009, the 8<sup>th</sup> of March being a Sabbath Day.

**FURTHER, I** do request the Ministry of Gender and Development, Government Agencies, Civil Organizations, INGOs and NGOs concerned, to execute appropriate programs in order to make the Day meaningful.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, IN THE CITY OF  
MONROVIA, COUNTY OF MONTERRADO  
THIS 8<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, IN THE YEAR  
OF OUR LORD 2009, AND OF THE  
INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC THE  
162<sup>ND</sup>.**

**ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

**BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT**

**OLUBANKE KING-AKERELE  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**RL/MFA/0155/2-10'09**

February 8, 2009

Madam President:

I have the honor to present my compliments and transmit herewith, Three Proclamations declaring the following dates as stated below as Working and National Holidays, respectively, for your kind approval, throughout the Republic.

1. Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2009, **International Women's Day**, the 8<sup>th</sup> of March being a Sabbath Day as **Working Holiday**.
2. Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2009, **Decoration Day**, as a **National Holiday**.
3. Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009, **Two Centuries Birth Anniversary of the late Joseph Jenkins Roberts, as a National Holiday**, since the 15<sup>th</sup> of March falls on Sunday.

Please accept, Madam President, the assurances of my highest esteem.

Respectfully yours,

Olubanke King-Akerele  
**MINISTER**

H. E. Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf  
President of the Republic of Liberia  
Executive Mansion  
Capitol Hill  
Monrovia, **LIBERIA**