

**A  
P R O C L A M A T I O N  
B Y T H E P R E S I D E N T**

**WHEREAS**, May 31, of every year was set aside in 1987 by Member States of the World Health Organization to be observed as “**World No Tobacco Day**”; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose for the observance of the day is to create awareness and draw global attention of the risk tobacco smoking poses to the health, wellbeing and welfare of the human race; and

**WHEREAS**, tobacco is the second major cause of death in the world and currently responsible for the death of one among every ten adults worldwide of about 5 million deaths in every year. Should the current smoking patterns continue, it will cause some 10 million deaths each year by the year 2020, and half of the people that smoke today-about 650 million will eventually be killed by tobacco; and

**WHEREAS**, tobacco is the fourth most common risk factor for disease worldwide, the economic costs of tobacco use are devastating. In addition to the high public costs of treating tobacco-caused diseases, tobacco kills people at the height of their productivity, depriving families of breadwinners and nations of a healthy workforce; and

**WHEREAS**, the Government of the Republic of Liberia cognizant of the danger tobacco poses to the health need of children, Men, Women and the Elderly Globally, through the increased usage of tobacco products, on July 8, 2008, Ratify the “World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control” .

**WHEREAS**, tobacco and poverty are inter-linked: studies have shown that in poorest households in some low income countries, as much as 10 per cent of total household expenditure is on tobacco, and less money is left with the families to spend on basic needs such as food, education and healthcare which directly lead to malnutrition, increased healthcare costs, premature death and higher illiteracy rate; and

**WHEREAS**, there are many cost-effective tobacco control measures that can be used in different settings to have significant impact on tobacco consumption, such as population-wide public policies to ban direct and indirect tobacco advertising, tobacco tax and price increases, smoke-free environments in all public and work places and large graphic health messages on tobacco packaging; and

**WHEREAS**, the World No Tobacco Day 2009 will be observed under the theme: “**Tobacco Health Warnings**”; and

**WHEREAS**, Liberia is a member of the World Health Organization and will join member states in the observance of the day:

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF**, President of the Republic of Liberia, by virtue of the Authority in me vested, do hereby declare Sunday, May 31, 2009 **“WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY”**, to be observed throughout the Republic as a **Working Holiday**. I do call upon the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Government Agencies concerned, the World Health Organization and other Partners to plan and execute appropriate programs and fully participate therein to make the day meaningful.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, IN THE CITY OF  
MONROVIA, THIS 18<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY, 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**

William V. S. Bull, Sr.  
**ACTING MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**