

**A
PROCLAMATION
BY THE PRESIDENT**

WHEREAS, in 1989 the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), at its thirty-sixth Session declared July 11 as **World Population Day** to be observed each year by the International Community to create awareness on population and development issues; and,

WHEREAS, the declaration of July 11 was in recognition of the day in 1987 when the World Population reached the five billion mark; and,

WHEREAS, since 1989 the day has been observed each year World-wide featuring a specific population and development issue to create the necessary awareness; and,

WHEREAS, the observance for this year will be under the Theme: “**Responding to the Economic Crisis: Investing in Women is a Smart Choice**” there is daring needs for everyone, including our women, to have access to economic opportunities in the wake of the current Economic Melt Down; and,

WHEREAS, the fact that most of the women all over the World, including those in our Country, are still being marginalized; and also known that most young women in Liberia do prematurely enter their reproductive years, thus leading to the high incidence of teenage pregnancy; and,

Recognizing these conditions, we must work directly with these women to improve their status by investing in their capacity building process for economic empowerment, and provide support for them so as to increase their participation in helping Liberia to implement its population policy and achieve the Millennium Development Goals for the **Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS)**, thus reaffirming the Government of Liberia’s commitment and dedication to the ideals set forth in the Revised National Population Policy to contribute towards improvement in the quality of life of the people of Liberia, including the women both old and young who represent the brightest prospect of any country.

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, 11 July 2009, as **“World Population Day”**, to be observed as a **Working Holiday** throughout the Republic.

FURTHER, I do call upon every Citizens and Foreign Residents within our Territorial Confines, National and International Women Organizations and all Government Ministries and Agencies concerned with population issues to join the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs to mobilize and sensitize the population to rededicate themselves in the implementation of women-related programs as enshrined in the Population Policy throughout the Country.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, IN THE CITY OF
MONROVIA, COUNTY OF MONTERRADO THIS
10TH DAY OF JULY, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
2009, AND OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE
REPUBLIC THE 162ND.**

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

BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT

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