

Remarks by H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf  
At Ceremony Marking Restitution of Powers  
Of National Authorizing Officer  
From European Union Delegation to Government of Liberia  
Held at C. Cecil Dennis Auditorium, October 6, 2010

Mr. Ambassador;  
Fellow Liberians:

Today marks an important point in the relationship between the people of Liberia and the European Union (EU), a relationship that has existed for more than 50 years.

I am very grateful for the European Union's positive response to my request to reconstitute National Authorizing Powers to Liberia, a clear indication of the EU's confidence in this administration and recognition of our efforts in restoring our once failed governance and financial systems. You have recognized this administration's efforts to uphold the tenets of democracy, respect for the rule of law, respect for the basic rights of our citizens, and our determination to rebuild our country.

Today is indeed a landmark in our nation's history. The people of Europe stood with us all through our days of crises. After the crises, they are standing with us as we strive to rebuild.

Today, as we regain the National Authorizing Powers, we recognize the efforts of the European Union to assist us to strengthen our systems.

Mr. Ambassador, please convey to the people of Europe our thanks and appreciation for their contributions towards the European Development Fund (EDF). With the EDF, our roads are being rehabilitated, healthcare delivery strengthened, education system re-established, electric power restored to parts of Monrovia, and our effort to decentralize government is being given a boost. Our revenue generation system is also enjoying general budgetary support from the European Union.

Today as the powers are restored, I want to assure the European Union that we will continue to strengthen this vibrant relationship. Our team at the Office of the NAO is a vibrant one (thanks to technical support from you), committed to upholding the tenets of the Cotonou Accord. As we take over the direct management of the European Development Fund for Liberia, we can assure you that we will leave no stone unturned in managing the funds with transparency, accountability, and sound financial management practices.

Finally, as we receive these powers, I want to say thank you for remaining committed to Liberia, and for restoring, today, the National Authorizing Powers to Liberia.

*[The President calls Planning and Economic Affairs Minister Amara Konneh to come forward and says to him]:*

I, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, with the constitutional powers vested in me, do hand over the Powers of the National Authorizing Officer to the Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs, Hon. Amara M. Konneh, as the National Authorizing Officer of the EDF for the Republic of Liberia.

I thank you.