

**Remarks by H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
At Ceremony Marking Formal Dedication of 13 MW Power Plants
For Liberia Electricity Corporation Bushrod Island Facility
Monday, February 14, 2011**

So much done!

On July 26 2006, President John Kufuor of Ghana and I switched on the first set of lights Monrovia had known in more than ten years. That switching on brought some street lights in certain places, to the joy and delight of hundreds of kids who had not known what electricity was. Since that time, we've been able to add more generation to where we ended up with 9.6 megawatts through the end of last year.

We've also been able to bring together the partnership that will enable us to achieve this: the U.S. Government, the World Bank, the European Commission, and the Government of Norway, working in partnership with ourselves to begin the plan that will take us beyond the 9.6 megawatts that we have. Also realizing our own limited capacity, that partnership included Manitoba, coming under the Norwegian support, to train our people to provide technical assistance. All of that has been done within these last five years.

Not a lot in terms of the need, but a lot in terms of where we started. So much to do! Today, we have 13 additional units – 3 coming from Norway, 10 coming from the United States – that will more than double our current capacity.

We will need to get our LEC team – the Chairman and Board of Directors, and the Managing Director – working with Manitoba to take this generation from here. It is nice for us to look at it, but it

doesn't do anything until it is out there – in the homes and in the factories so that people can then get the benefit. That is what we have to do over the next few months to get this installed generation into the places where people begin to use it to enhance the security, improve their efficiency, and enable them to have much more content.

We're going to have more to do on that. For the past two years, we've been negotiating with Buchanan Renewables to get a biomass plant that would add to the capacity and bring an environmentally safe facility. Those negotiations are dragging on and on. We need to get that done because that's going to bring additional generation, serving people in other areas as that plant is supposed to be located somewhere near Kakata, in Margibi County. This will add to the supply of electricity to our country.

Then we have the hydro, which is the ultimate in cost-efficiency in generating electricity for us. Again we've been going through negotiations, trying to make sure that the offer we have from the Brazilian company, Vale, will enable us to start the reconstruction of the original hydro on the St. Paul, perhaps bringing it to its original capacity of about 64 megawatts.

There's more to do, considering the mining operations and an expanding City of Monrovia, in Montserrado County. We will need to work on the upstream storage that will enable us to move from 64 megawatts to what I am told is a potential 1,000 megawatts. For that, the partnership will need to come together again and make ensure that we have the planning so that progress is not interrupted and we can continue to add power.

What has started and what needs to be done has been mentioned by Manitoba. Eighteen cities in our three southeastern counties of Maryland, Grand Gedeh and Nimba will soon be receiving

electricity from Côte d'Ivoire. We are pleased that the team has, in fact, started its work; that they've completed some of their initial work in Nimba County and are now moving to Grand Gedeh and, subsequently, will move to Maryland. I am told by them that they expect, at the minimal, to have street lights in those three counties by August of this year.

So much done, so much to do! Now, so much to lose!

So much to lose when you take lights from people, and illegally connect your homes and your business without going through the proper registration with LEC and paying your bills; or when you disturb some of the facilities where we have the wires and all the things that are being put in. We're going to lose the support and lose the electricity that will be provided. In your homes, be careful in maintaining and ensuring that the wiring is there and is done properly so that you do not interrupt the facilities of LEC.

To all the staff, Manitoba, Cummings which has come and made great sacrifices installing these units, to our LEC family and to our partners, we like to say a big thank you. We certainly have come a long way and we hope that in the next two months, the average Liberian citizen will be able to turn a switch and be able to do their homework or go about their daily task with electricity to which they are so much deserving.

Thank you all for coming.