

The Liberian Media and World Press Freedom Day

By: The Department of Public Affairs – Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs

On the occasion of this year's World Press Freedom, which is celebrated under theme: "Access to Information and Fundamental Freedoms – This Is Our Right" – UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, urged all governments politicians, businesses and citizens to commit to nurturing and protecting an independent and free media. Without this fundamental right, people are less free and less empowered. With it, we can work together for a world of dignity and opportunity for all".

In adding its voice, the Office of Her Excellency, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, would like to wish all media practitioners well as we celebrate the work of journalists across this country and the world – thereby recognizing their contributions and their impact to the democratic development of our country as well as global evolution.

As a government, we want to reiterate our firm commitment to continue to be the champion of free speech, nurture and kindle an environment where access to information will be protected to bridge the gap that could lead to tolerating and condoning falsehood and misinformation as truth.

Our record in this administration remains indisputable as we have allowed the existence of more freedoms and uncensored coverage amid the reportorial duties, functions and operations of the larger society.

The media will continue to be the conduit through which, we as a government can communicate our development agenda and aspirations to the Liberian people and therefore recognize this significant partnership.

We wish to assure the media that as we continue to foster the kind of collaboration to enhance of nascent democracy – we would like to equally challenge them of their social responsibility in pursuit of the truth without prejudice or bias but must rather eschew and aspire for professionalism in their line of duty. While access to information and fundamental freedoms – are sacred rights; the media can only add meaning to such tendencies when they live above reproach in their service to our nation and people.