

**A
PROCLAMATION
BY THE PRESIDENT**

WHEREAS, the People of the Republic of Liberia have always observed with great pride, the practice of turning in humble contrition to Almighty God for guidance and protection; for the Faithful, but Merciful, Administration of Justice, and for Peace in their National Life and Affairs; and.

WHEREAS, at a Time in the Affairs of Men and Nations, when peace seems obscure; when Political, Social and Economic Uncertainties and Injustices seem to be the order of the day, and when friendship, fraternity, and love among men and nations seem to be relegated and elusive; and,

WHEREAS, while science and technology are climbing to peaks, revealing the secrets of nature, which the hands of some men are converting into appliances, devices, deadly and destructive instruments of war, it then becomes befitting and necessary that Liberia and her People humble themselves before the Almighty God, Creator of Heaven and Earth, Diviner and eternal Author, absolver, Exemplar and Finisher of all things; and,

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the Republic of Liberia at its Session in 1883 realizing the foregoing, did enact a Bill declaring the second Friday in the month of April of each Year to be observed as “**National Fast and Prayer day**,” the same to be celebrated as a **National Holiday**, for the Safety and Welfare of the Nation and its People with penitent relevance to their God; and,

WHEREAS, there have been unusual and extraordinary outbreaks of natural phenomena and man provoked national crises that have caused much harm, devastation and destruction in many parts of the World, and in our Nation, respectively, from which, by the grace of God, We, the Survivors, have been spared; and,

WHEREAS, there are still large numbers of our Kith and Kin living in uncertain conditions in the Diaspora, and, the Need for Remembrance in Prayer those who have made the Supreme Sacrifice of their lives, willing or unwillingly:

NOW THEREFORE, I, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, by virtue of the Authority in me vested, do hereby Proclaim the Second Friday in April ensuing, being the 10th of same month, as “**National Holiday**”, to be observed as a Day of supplication, Prayer, fasting and Meditation that the Blessings of God’s Creation and of our Fathers may rest upon the high and noble duty which is laid upon Us, to the end that our efforts as a People may be crowned with great achievements to the common cause of the Nation, the State and Humanity.

I also do call upon, request, and invite, in the name of all residents of Liberia, all Prelates, Priests, Elders, Deacons, Evangelists and Members of the Sacerdotal Order, and all of the People regardless of Religious Creed, the gather together with one accord in their respective places of worship, in each city, Town, village, Hamlet and Home, within the Territorial confines of the Republic of Liberia, in simple and non-costly apparel, representing the Old Custom of **“Sackcloth and Ashes”**, to **Fast, Pray and Mediate from 8:00 O’clock in the evening anti meridian to 12 noon, AT LEAST, and to pray from morning until 6 O’clock in the evening,** when all **public offices, business houses, market places** are to remain closed on this day, while I do further call upon All Citizens and Foreign residents within Our Borders to cease from their **usual daily occupations and avocations in further recognition of God’s Love and Guidance.**

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF
THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, IN THE CITY
MONROVIA, COUNTY OF MONTSERRADO
THIS 9TH DAY OF MARCH, IN THE YEAR
OF OUR LORD 2009, AND OF THE
INDEPENENCE 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**