

Remarks by H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
At Thanksgiving & Intercessory Services
Commemorating Liberia's 163rd Independence Anniversary
At the United Liberia Inland Church
Sunday, July 25, 2010

Religion is a cornerstone of hope, faith and love for most Liberians. Faith leaders exercise great influence over the people and we must harness that power for development and unity.

Our country has experienced great turmoil! NGOs have come and gone. Government is only now, for the first time in decades, earning the trust of the people. But houses of worship have endured; that staying power, that bedrock leadership, is undeniable.

Looking across all religions, the faith sector has the greatest breadth and depth of coverage of any social network. If you could map the many institutions together, you would find, in the faith sector, powerful, home-grown partner for development.

Religion cuts across all boundaries, territories, clans and tribes, and has the potential, amidst the diversities of the human race, to unify peoples and nations.

As we face the challenges that are before us as a nation, I solicit the partnership of all faiths and religions to join us in our continued quest to provide leadership, development, peace and unity for Liberians and non-Liberians who reside within the borders of our great Mama Liberia.

As we celebrate our 163rd Independence Anniversary, permit me to thank the Church and its leaders for the enormous contributions they have made in promoting peace, development and unity in our beloved country.

I urge all us as Christians to unite and to provide the leadership that encourages all Liberians to forge unity, because together we can and will build a strong and vibrant nation.

God did not provide sun without rain, joy without sorrow, peace without pain. No one told us the road would be easy.

Permit me to thank the Almighty God who has poured His Grace and Spirit upon my life and given me the wisdom and strength to lead and steer the affairs of our blessed country.

May God bless us all and save the State.