

President Sirleaf Calls Newly Reconstituted Cabinet 'The Right People for the Job'

(MONROVIA, LIBERIA – December 4, 2010): The following statement was issued by H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on Saturday, December 4, 2010:

Fellow Citizens:

Now that the Cabinet is in place, I would like to express deeply felt appreciation to all of the Ministers who have served the nation with diligence and commitment during these past five years.

The period of the administrative leave has provided them and me an opportunity to reflect on past performance and achievements. I am proud of what they have done and they should be too. Liberia is a safer, more prosperous and more open country than it was in 2006. We have thrown off the burden of debt, we have rebuilt schools, roads and hospitals. We have restored electricity and water. We have increased and paid Civil Service compensation on time, and the country is more stable now than it has been for a generation. This is in no small part due to the efforts of my Cabinet.

This period has also provided an opportunity for some to finalize their decision to leave the Cabinet to pursue endeavors in politics and private businesses. They have my thanks and commitment to support them in this new pursuit. I am most grateful to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, whom I have known and worked with for many

years, for the integrity and commitment which she demonstrated in her service to Government and Country. The Minister responded to my initial request and resigned on November 3. As she has been in need of important medical attention for some time, I have granted her extended leave to seek immediate medical attention, following which we will address the issue of her continued service to Liberia and West Africa.

I am equally grateful to the Minister of Labor for the integrity and commitment he has shown in his service to Government and the people of the country. I had asked him to remain in the Cabinet with a different portfolio but he has decided to return to private endeavor and I respect his position and will support him fully in that goal.

Over the last five years, we have built a strong foundation for the nation that has been recognized all over the world. However, I acknowledge that the expectations of the Liberian people have not yet been entirely met. We, as a Government, will go faster and further to build on that foundation to deliver more real and meaningful improvements in the lives of our people. That means building more roads, creating more jobs, expanding the supply of lights in the country, bringing education and healthcare to more people – all the things Liberians need to have a better future. This renewed Cabinet team are the right people for the job and will focus all their efforts on making this happen. We thank the Liberian people for their support and understanding, and pledge that we will do even more in the next year to keep our promise to the nation.

Thank you.