

**Message by H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf  
to Petty Traders in Monrovia and Its Environs  
Thursday, December 20, 2012**

Fellow Liberians resident in the City of Monrovia and its environs:

I have instructed all Acting Mayors and other local government authorities to be lenient with the petty traders and street hawkers until the holiday season is over.

However, let this serve as a strong warning to all that as of January 5, they must relocate to existing markets which have space, and to open lots which we will try to identify during the season. If they don't, they will be evicted and moved from those places that constrain the activity of motorists and pedestrians.

This should serve as a special strong warning to legal private landowners and those that have businesses and structures, including the meat, fish and produce sellers in the area between the SKD Sports Complex and the ELWA Junction, that they too must relocate to facilitate a clean-up of the area, thereby ensuring that the gateway to our Capital City does not continue to be in a deplorable state.

We also want people and businesses on the Waterfront, including Ma Juah Market, to know that they, too, must relocate to stop the massive pollution of the Mesurado River, thereby enabling us to address the resulting health hazards and our efforts to continue to beautify Monrovia. Ongoing dialogue with private landowners will be accelerated to bring that initiative to closure.

Let me, in closing, express the fullest of confidence in the Urban Renewal Team, led by the Ministry of Public Works and the Acting Mayor of the City of Monrovia, who will implement the clean-up and relocation effort. We express our full support to the team for a job well done.

Thank you.

***(The President delivered a similar message in Simple English.)***