

GUEST COMMENTARY

Applauding Government amid the Signing cum Sealing of the Deal for the Construction of the Ganta – Yekepa Road

*By: The Public Affairs Department
Executive Mansion*

The Government of Liberia under the Presidency of Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has again come to fulfill as promised to the people. Surely, the government had given its word that it would build roads, schools, hospitals, restore electricity and revamp social services across the nation. Those promises were incensed by the obtaining challenges after the most difficult moment in our country's history.

True to fulfilling its commitment to the people, the government embarked on an aggressive infrastructure development sojourn to meet the demands of the population. The time had indeed come to keep the promise and no stone was left unturned to achieve what had become a social contract between the government and the citizens.

The Mount Coffee Hydro Dam, which was destroyed as a result of the conflict is being rehabilitated; expansion work on the Bushrod Island turbine plant is fast-ongoing; major rehabilitation and construction work on the Red-Light – Ganta belt remain on course; government's rural electrification project through the West Africa Power Pool has brought lights in the homes and streets of Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland Counties; the Freeport – Red-Light corridor commenced in earnest; feasibility studies for the Gbarnga – Manikoma highway, the Greenville – Zwedru, Ganta – Zwedru to Fish Town roads have either been completed or being finalized.

With the latest development culminating into the signing cum sealing of the deal for the commencement of major construction work aimed at the pavement of the Ganta – Yekepa lot – many Liberians, particularly the good people of Nimba County will have something to celebrate. Nimba is Liberia's second most populous county where huge

economic activities are concentrated. The county shares border with neighboring Guinea amid immense trade and commerce.

The project once completed will ostensibly enhance socioeconomic activities for Liberians from all walks of Liberia, reduce the once time-consuming and boring travels for commuters and will become an eye-opener toward trekking a new horizon for multiple development opportunities.

It can be argued that investors will give a shot to areas that are accessible in order to fast-track the prospects for their investments. The politics aside, the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf-led government has demonstrated the hindsight, commitment, pedigree and consciousness to favorably respond to the needs and aspirations of the Liberian people.

We cannot ignore the challenges but with resilience and concerted resolve, we managed to overall prevail. Compensation for people in the right-of-the-way, rival disputes over land ownership, complex negotiations involving local and traditional stakeholders, unintended delays, mobilization of monetary resources, snail pace for project take-off, among other challenging factors were part of the intervening preoccupations the government had to grapple with. Notwithstanding, government's commitment to achieve its goals was unwavering. For the record, it was not all rosy.

The government told its people that it would build the roads, and indeed accomplish the targets; the government promised schools, hospitals, restoration of the power grid and everything is well con course. This is a government that makes promise and keeps it; and a government elected to deliver.

At long last, we, the government, duly elected by the people amid their abiding trust and confidence have truly acted in good faith to bring smiles to the people's faces; having promised to build the roads and attain our goal.

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