

**DECLARATION
BY THE PRESIDENT**

WHEREAS, upon Declaration of Independence on July 26, 1847, Liberia became the first Republic in Africa to be led by people of African descent and became known throughout the world as the torch bearer of freedom and a beacon of peace on the Continent; and

WHEREAS, between 1979 and 2003 – a period of 24 years – the peace, security and stability of Liberia were undermined by diverse forms of civil unrest and armed conflicts resulting in hundreds of thousands of deaths, refugees and internal displacements, and destruction to the infrastructure, the economy and social services; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), brokered under the auspices of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union (AU), the European Union (EU), and the United Nations, was signed on 18 August 2003, in Accra, Ghana, by Liberians, including rival armed groups and Liberian political parties, and witnessed by civil society and regional and international partners, ended the Liberian civil war and ushered in the framework for the country's post-conflict governance and recovery; and

WHEREAS, the Liberian people are determined to pursue a National Vision collectively designed to sustain the peace through reconciliation and development, reflecting policies by which Liberia can obtain the status of a middle-income country by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the Government and people of Liberia continue to acknowledge, with gratitude, the vital contributions of the Mano River Union (MRU), ECOWAS, AU, EU and the United Nations, and many countries as well as individuals, groups, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations for the momentous achievement in securing, building, protecting and consolidating peace in Liberia and the West African sub-region, affording the occasion for all Liberians to celebrate this important milestone – an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the cause of peace and progress; and

WHEREAS, the activities for the commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the CPA were begun as part of the 166th Independence Day Celebrations, and will be continued throughout this year through programs and activities in all of Liberia's 15 counties; these programs and activities will include sporting and community events, exhibitions, conferences, panel discussions, the promotion of peace monuments, the creation of peace parks, as well as other appropriate events and projects to be organized in Accra, Ghana, and the headquarters of regional and international organizations which played key roles in the peace process, including ECOWAS in Abuja, Nigeria; the AU in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; the EU in Brussels, Belgium; and the United Nations in New York, the United States of America;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF, President of the Republic of Liberia, by virtue of the Authority in me vested, do hereby declare and direct that commemorative events and projects be undertaken under the Theme: **“Never Again to War: Consolidating Peace, Promoting Reconciliation and Pursuing Development”**. I do further declare and direct that Friday, August 16, be a Day of Muslim Prayer, and Sunday, August 18, a Day of Christian Prayer, and request the Muslim and Christian communities to organize appropriate services throughout the country. I also declare and direct that Monday, August 19, be the day set aside to organize a **Special 10th Anniversary Program for the CPA**, to be held at the Centennial Memorial Pavilion in Monrovia, and in all county capitals.

FURTHERMORE, I call upon all Liberians, various ministries and agencies of the Government, as well as political parties, religious groups, institutions of learning, and civil society organizations to cooperate and undertake appropriate programs befitting the observance of this great achievement over the period of a year from August 18, 2013, to August 18, 2014.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, IN THE CITY OF MONROVIA,
COUNTY OF MONTSERRADO, THIS 8TH DAY OF AUGUST,
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2013, AND OF THE 167TH
INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC.**

**ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**