

**SPECIAL STATEMENT TO THE NATION
BY
MADAM ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2014**

(As Delivered)

My fellow Liberians:

Even as we continue to combat the Ebola virus and strive to achieve our national objective of *zero-new-cases by Christmas*, we must also attend to what will be a difficult job of recovery – recovery to the health care system so that we deliver health care services all across the country and are better prepared for any epidemic of the size and scale of Ebola; recovery to the economy so that we are repositioned to produce more opportunities and afford decent and better living conditions for all our people; recovery to governance so that notwithstanding the superficial differences which haunt the body politic, we can still remain enjoined behind the common purpose of national healing and reconstruction.

This requires a team that is adaptable, responsive, disciplined, loyal, and focused – a team that is understanding of the prevailing challenges, and are resolved to respond by taking appropriate risks to get things done on time. It is my job to continuously vet and ready such a team for the challenges we currently face and those that lie ahead.

And so today, I announce a number of changes to the Executive Branch of the Government. A few are transferred or reassigned, signifying our recognition of their capabilities and performance. Others are dropped from where they served, but will be given appropriate opportunities to continue to serve the country. I am deeply grateful for the services and contribution of all of those we who have served or continue to serve.

We are not short on expectation that going forward, each working day – indeed each working hour – will be spent not only on catching up and continuing with the transformational agenda of the country but also to exploring creative new approaches by which we deliver on the agenda within the limited time of our stewardship.

My hope is that this team will take us to the finish line. But make no mistake: As Captain, I will not hesitate to change anyone who fails to meet our expectations.

With these remarks, I am pleased to make the following initial appointments, others to follow at a subsequent time:

Ministry of Public Works

Mr. William Gyude Moore	-	Minister
Mr. Roland Giddings	-	Deputy Minister for Administration

Ministry of Education

Dr. Elizabeth Davis-Russell	-	Minister
Dr. Nancy Freeman	-	Deputy Minister for Administration
Mr. Anthony Nimely	-	Deputy Minister for Planning, Research and Development

National Investment Commission

Mrs. Etmonia David Tarpeh	-	Chairperson
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Ministry of Health

Mr. George Werner	-	Minister
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Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection

Mrs. Julia Duncan-Cassell	-	Minister
Mr. Peter Roberts	-	Deputy Minister for Administration
Mrs. Sienne Abdul-Baki	-	Deputy Minister for Gender
Mrs. Mardia Martin Wiles	-	Deputy Minister for Policy, Planning & Technical Services
Mrs. Lydia Sherman	-	Deputy Minister for Children and Social Protection

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dr. Wede Brownell	-	Deputy Minister for Administration
Ms. Albratha Doe	-	Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Transport

Mr. Bushuben M. Keita	-	Deputy Minister for Administration
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Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Mr. Cyril Allen, Jr.	-	Deputy Minister for Commerce
Mr. Mohammed Turay	-	Assistant Minister for Industry

National AIDS Commission

Ms. Candace Eastman (replacing Ms. Wessehdi Sio-Njoh)	-	Commissioner
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Ministry of Youth & Sports

Mr. Ramses Kumbuyah (replacing Ms. Jacqueline Capehart)	-	Deputy Minister for Administration
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Ministry of Lands, Mines & Energy

Mr. Zack Sharpe	-	Deputy Minister for Administration
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Ministry of Information

Mr. Andrew Tehmeh (to replace Norris Tweah who moves on to the University of Liberia)	-	Deputy Minister for Administration
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Ministry of Internal Affairs

Ms. Gbemie Horace Kollie	-	Deputy Minister for Operations
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(replacing Mr. Ranney Jackson)

Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications

Ms. Margretta Smith-General

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Assistant Minister for Administration

(replacing Mr. James Cooper)

Liberia Broadcasting System

- Mr. Ledgerhood Rennie – Director General
- Mr. Patrick Honnah – Deputy Director General for Broadcasting
- Mr. Christopher Sellee – Deputy Director General for Rural Comms

The special word on the change in the Ministry of Health. Dr. Gwenigale will continue to serve as Advisor until his planned retirement in February.