

STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY MADAM ELLEN JOHNSON
SIRLEAF, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA AT THE
INSTITUTION CEREMONY OF HIS EXCELLENCY MR. JOHN
AYGEKUM KUFUOR, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA,
MONROVIA, LIBERIA, NOVEMBER 22, 2008

Your Excellency President Kufuor and Members of Delegation,
Mr. Vice President and Mrs. Boakai,
Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislature,
Mr. Chief Justice and Members of the Supreme Court of Liberia,
Mr. President Pro Tempore and Members of the Liberian Senate,
Members of the Cabinet,
Mr. Doyen and Members of the Diplomatic Corp,
Prelates,
Former Officials of Government,
Fellow Citizens,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends:

I am glad to receive in our midst, an illustrious and distinguished son of Ghana, and Africa, who has demonstrated leadership, statesmanship and care for his fellow men.

President Kufuor has carved for himself a special place in the hearts of the people of Liberia for his tireless efforts in restoring peace and sanity to Liberia.

Today, on behalf of the people of Liberia, and in my own name, it is a special pleasure to bestow upon President Kufuor the highest distinction in our country as a mark of our deep and abiding appreciation for the role you played personally as a leader, as well as in recognition of what Ghana as a country, and Ghanaians in general have done for Liberia before, during and after our civil war.

Ghana demonstrated true African solidarity and fraternity in leaving no stone unturned to restore peace in Liberia. From Lieutenant General Arnold Quinoo, the First Field Commander of the ECOWAS Ceasefire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), to the mediatory roles of Dr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas, then in the Foreign Ministry of Ghana, and later as Executive Secretary of ECOWAS to Flt/Lt. Jerry John Rawlings and the Akosombo Rounds of talks

to Dr. Kofi Atta Annan as Secretary General of the United Nations to Ambassador Victor Gbeho, among many, Ghana was present and active everywhere the case of Liberia went.

Today, the combined outcome of these efforts has brought us this far – enjoying peace and freedom in a democratic environment. You are deserving of this honor because you merit and achieve it.

We are very proud that a true African solution to an African crisis was found in Liberia, using ECOWAS as model and vehicle. I am hopeful that both leaders and peoples of West Africa will apply all the tenets of respect for fundamental rights and good governance to avoid conflicts.

Finally, I will be remiss if I do not pay special homage to the scores of Ghanaians who came here to keep peace, and in so doing were martyred here while others sustained permanent disability in the discharge of their duties. We also recognize the work of Ghanaian experts and technocrats who played key roles in the mediation and negotiation as well as post conflict reconstruction of Liberia. To you all, we say thank you.

I leave you with a verse from the Book of Matthew, which says: “Happy is the Peacemaker, for he shall inherit the Kingdom of God.” We are truly proud of you.

I thank you.