

Remarks by H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
At Program Celebrating the Official Opening of the Embassy
Of the Republic of Liberia near Kuwait City
The State of Kuwait
June 14, 2010

Honorable Undersecretary Al-Jarallah;

Other Officials of the Kuwaiti Government;

Ambassadors, including our dear Ambassador from our sister State of Sierra Leone;

The Official Delegation from Liberia;

Dear Friends:

Let me first, through you, Honorable Minister, express our thanks and appreciation to the Amir and to the other officials of Kuwaiti Government who have received us so warmly and made us feel so much at home in this City.

Some 32 years ago, I came to Kuwait City in the role of Deputy Minister of Finance for my country, Liberia, to sign with the Kuwait Fund for Development the first loan to finance a road construction project in our country. Unfortunately, it wasn't too long after that, when our country went into the process of self-destruction, and the relationship that had been built, that led to that signing, as it was with so many other countries, was interrupted.

Today, we are so pleased that we have now reactivated this relationship. We are pleased that we can now begin to rebuild upon that historic and important relationship, and that together we can promote the development

of Africa and strong partnership and relationship between the Arab States and the African continent.

We want to thank you most sincerely for these facilities that will enable us to carry out this program of being able to promote this partnership. Last night, in the presence of the Amir and other officials, our two countries signed an Agreement establishing a Joint Commission that will pursue the promotion of this partnership. We also signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Bilateral Consultations. Through those instruments, and with our Ambassador and his staff who will be working here, using these facilities, we hope to demonstrate to you the friendship that we feel so strongly and so dearly, deep in our hearts, for the cooperation which we have received from Kuwait over the many years of this relationship.

We want to welcome you to our country. I've said this to the Amir, and to the Crown Prince, as well as to the Prime Minister, that whenever Africa is on your itinerary, don't forget our little country of Liberia, there on the West Coast, where we hope, through our success, through our strong determination, to become a strong partner, not only with Kuwait, but all Arab States, and other nations of the world, that you can be a part of what we hope Liberia will represent, a post-conflict success story.

Thank you for your support; thank you for the cooperation, and we look forward to a future of strong relationship. Please give our appreciation to all the Kuwaiti people who have been so kind to us.