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# Holiday Greetings from Ambassador Jeremiah C. Sulunteh

*Embassy of the Republic of Liberia in the United States* , Tue, Dec 24, 2013

**Have A Merry Merry Christmas**  
**And A Very Happy New Year**



Fellow Liberians and Friends of Liberia, on behalf of Her Excellency Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, the Government and People of Liberia, and the Embassy in Washington, I wish you all, a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year!!

As we begin the year 2014, we first give thanks to Almighty God for His Mercy and Grace that enabled Liberians to celebrate 10 years of uninterrupted peace in our beloved country.

Following decades of civil upheaval, Liberia embarked upon a course of peace in 2003. And thanks to very strong international support, our country has re-emerged on the international scene as a post-conflict success. With its nascent multi-party democracy thriving, Liberians are enjoying an unprecedented level of freedom across our country.

Liberia, under the Government of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, has continued on a course of progress in all aspects of national endeavors. From infrastructural development, such as rehabilitation and construction of roads, medical and educational facilities, provision of electricity and pipe-borne water, to the institution of policies and programs in order to strengthen state institutions, there has been sustainable progress.

The Embassy of Liberia near Washington notes with satisfaction the elevated levels of cooperation attained in U.S.-Liberia relations over the last seven years of the Administration of President Sirleaf, including U.S. support for the cancellation of Liberia's US \$4.9 billion under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative.

On January 15, 2013, President Sirleaf and then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton launched a high-level U.S.-Liberia Partnership Dialogue, which reaffirmed United States strong commitment to supporting Liberia in the areas of Agriculture and Food Security, Energy and Power Infrastructure, and Human Development. The Partnership Dialogue was inaugurated on May 7, 2013 to concretize and further institutionalize the bilateral relations through the signing of a Joint Statement.

On March 18, 2013, President Barak Obama extended the status of Liberians on the Deferred Enforcement Departure (DED) in the United States for another 18 months. Our effort should now be directed towards more engagement with the United that those on the DED will be given the status of Permanent Residency. The Government of Liberia, in recognition of the importance of Liberians in the Diaspora, is taking measures that would harmonize the Constitution and laws of Liberia to legalize dual citizenship. We wish to assure that the Embassy will continue to be actively engaged with the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA) and all well-meaning Liberian organizations in the United States on matters that would benefit Diaspora Liberians and our country. The Embassy will also continue to be fully engaged with Liberia's partners in the United States, Canada and Mexico to ensure that our country benefits from the goodwill of our international partners. Finally, I urge all Liberians to be fully committed to the maintenance of sustainable peace and progress in our homeland. MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

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