

July 2, 2013

PRESS STATEMENT

The attention of the Ministry of Internal Affairs has been drawn to information from radio broadcasts that Chief Zanzan Karwor, Chairman of the National Council of Chiefs and Elders has appointed one Jesse Taylue as Chief Zoe of Liberia.

The Ministry hereby states that the appointment of Jesse Taylue by Chief Karwor did not follow the procedures and standards for appointment of the Chief Zoe of Liberia, which among other things calls for the following:

- Assembly of Zoes of all practicing counties of Liberia for certification of qualified candidates
- Announcement of the duly elected Candidate by the Grand Master and
- Recommendation of the newly elected Chief Zoe to the Minister of Internal Affairs by the Zoes, through the Assistant Minister of Culture, for endorsement.

The appointment announced by Chief Zanzan Karwor did not meet any of these procedures and standards, and consultation was not held with the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Consequently, the Ministry is of the view that because processes, procedures and standards for that appointment have not met tradition, custom and practices associated with election of the Chief Zoe, the action by Chief Zanzan Karwor is deemed null and void and with no effect.

The Ministry therefore calls on all County Superintendents, Chiefs, Governors, Zoes and other traditional leaders to disregard the announcement and to continue to recognize and work with the incumbent, Chief Nathaniel G. Kesselly.

The Ministry wishes to assure all Traditional Leaders, Elders, Chiefs and Zoes that it remains fully committed to working with them to safeguard the interest of traditional societies and Liberians.

Meanwhile, the Ministry reaffirms its earlier announcement that all issues related to Liberian Culture remain within its domain through the Bureau of Customs and Culture.

The Internal Affairs Ministry maintains that it will not relinquish its statutory responsibility to any group.



Signed: _____

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DIRECTOR

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