

National Identification Registry
Press Statement by the Chairman of the Board
October 21, 2015

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press:

I am very pleased to welcome you to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and, more importantly, inform you that the Government of Liberia, under the leadership of Her Excellency Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, has completed the establishment of the National Identification Registry (NIR). The NIR is an autonomous agency within the Executive Branch of the Government of Liberia which derives its authority from the National Identification Registry Act of 2011.

Today, the Board of Registrars of the NIR met here at the Ministry of Internal Affairs to officially welcome the newly appointed management team and approve the agency's work plan for the next nine months. This meeting climaxes a number of key steps, which can be understood to mean that the Registry is now a fully functional entity of our Government.

First, after several months of consultations, on August 1, 2011, President Sirleaf signed into law the National Identification Registry Act, which repealed PRC Decree # 65 that had established the National Identification Card System. Then in May of 2012 Madam President established the NIR Board of Registrars, which includes the heads of five Government institutions. Following several months of engagement and resource mobilization, the Board of Registrars has now recruited a management team for the entity and their choices have been endorsed by the President of Liberia.

Today, we welcomed our newly appointed management team. Hon. J. Tiah Nagbe, former Deputy Minister for Research and Development Planning at this Ministry of Internal Affairs as the Executive Director and head of the management team. He is supported by Mr. Zeze R. Reed as the Deputy Executive Director for Technical Services and Mrs. Haja Kumba Kaba Liberty as the Deputy Executive Director for Administration. This team will enjoy the full support of our Board and myself, as Chairman, as long as they serve with diligence, dedication, and dignity.

The National Identification Registry is created primarily to design, establish, maintain and administer the National Biometric Identification System (NBIS) of the Republic of Liberia. This is to be a modern computerized database containing information for all citizens and residents of Liberia. The system will be greatly helpful for law enforcement, social planning, payment of benefits, and the conduct of elections, among other things. We ask for your support to the registry and express our gratitude to President Sirleaf for the progress made on this key deliverable and her strong commitment to making this NBIS project a part of her government's legacy.

Thank you.