

Induction Ceremony of
Hon. Dr. Henrique Flomo Tokpa
Minister of Internal Affairs, R/L
Monday, February 8, 2016

Members of the Executive Branch present, Members of the Legislature, Member of the Judiciary, Actg. Ministers, Dept. Ministers, Asst. Ministers, Superintendents, Directors, Leaders and Members of the Traditional Council, Chiefs, friends and well-wishers.

As we assemble on this historic day, I accept with humility the mantle of leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the nation oldest and largest Ministry. I appreciate the confidence through the workings of the Almighty God that the President has reposed in me to serve the Liberian People as Minister of Internal Affairs, Republic of Liberia. I am particularly thankful to Her Excellency Madam Ellen Johnson-Johnson who had the delicate task of identifying a leader who would sustain the Ministry on its path toward ever greater success while preparing it to take on new challenges. I am delighted to be entrusted with the institution and committed to guiding it in accomplishing its mandate.

Leading a Ministry like the Ministry of Internal Affairs is like building a long story building but building a story at a time and under different guidance and direction. Each former Minister orchestrated in a unique way the construction of a new story, building on the base laid by his predecessors. Their tasks were to build and rebuild the Ministry physical structure, establish policies for administrative and operational purposes and update existing ones, initiate programs and projects, strengthen departments and the Ministry finances, hire and renew staff, and most importantly to renew and energize the employees for accomplishing the Ministry's mandate. Each former Minister responded to the challenges of his time and worked with his colleagues and partners to position the Ministry for the future.

What will the next story of the building ...the story that we will build together -- look like? Fortunately, the institution upon which we want to build has a

strong base. We do not have to rebuild the foundations of the house because Minister Dukuly, and his predecessors left it sound. We must strive to maintain the mission that has served the Ministry **and the people of Liberia** so well. As we were reminded by our employer, the President of Liberia, Her Excellency Madam Ellen Johns-Sirleaf that the needs of the Liberian People **have** increased; therefore we all as employees of this Ministry should increase our levels of productivities and innovation to better serve our people.

Today, I promise to fully execute the duties, functions and mandate of the Ministry to the best of my moral and professional ability. I hope to do this by improving the internal efficiencies of the functioning of the Ministry to include, the functional operations of the central and local governance. Needless to say, this will be done by building on the accomplishments of past Ministers. **You the employees have done a very good job, and with you, we can succeed. I am aware that there are great professionals, Deputy Ministers, Assistant Ministers, Directors, Project Coordinators....etc. and I will expect that you work with me in continuing your good work here at the Ministry. I will expect your fullest cooperation and support in helping me accomplish the task for which I am here. Additionally, I will work with the local government structure to include Superintendents, Commissioners, Chiefs and Elders as to how we at Central can help them better serve the people of Liberia. Their ideas and suggestions will be cardinal to our success. As a Ministry, we will also work with the Traditional Council to help us fully understand the concerns of the indigenous people so as to enable us address their concerns.**

Let me say this to the local government, as UNMIL peacekeepers depart Liberia in the near future, we expect the local government structure to be solely involve in maintaining the peace we now enjoy through its interactions with the people.

I will consult and seek guidance from the President on a regular basis and also, if need be, consult with colleagues in the cabinet and the legislature.

Thank you for coming to be a part of this taking over ceremony. No one gets at this point in a career alone; I am grateful for the support of many people. I would like to acknowledge my family, friends, and colleagues. I particularly

want to thank my wife, Mrs. Kiapéh S. Tokpa, who has tolerated me for 38 years in Marriage. I am grateful for her support through my academic and professional sojourn.

Let me close by saying to my colleagues and staff; Let the past go; look to the future. This Ministry is greater than any one individual. Stand by it. Its foundations are laid in honor and good faith. ***It will give light, share*** cheers, and multiply effectiveness and service delivery for the good of the Liberian people ... in the years to come.

Thank you.