

“PEACE AND SECURITY ARE NOT OPTION; THEY ARE OUR OBJECT”

# MIA Renaissance



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## Youth, Women Issues to dominate Second Round JCCEM in La Cote d'Ivoire soon



**President Sirleaf congratulates President Ouattara moments after the Ivorian President was crowned by Liberian Chiefs and Elders in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County on October 19, 2013**

Chiefs and Elders of Liberia and La Cote d'Ivoire are gearing up for a second round of peace and reconciliation meeting following the successful conclusion of the just ended Joint Council of Chief and Elders Meeting (JCCEM) in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County.

This second all-important meeting, scheduled for a soon to be disclosed Ivorian border town with Liberia, will focus and x-rayed, the Joint Communiqué signed by the two sides in Zwedru.

Both the Liberian and La Cote d'Ivoire governments, eager for a lasting peace amongst their citizens living along the border, have deliberately played a rather low key role, allowing the process to be entirely 'citizen driven.'

What this means, according to Liberia's Internal Affairs Ministry, which is heading this all-important effort for the Government of Liberia, "We are making a conscious effort to

*Continued on page 3*

# What Superintendents say about President Sirleaf's 75<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary

It was a time of joy and thanksgiving to God, on October 29, 2013 at the occasion marking the celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Liberian President, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Hundreds of Liberians, foreign residents and other guests graced the 'Diamond Jubilee of the president. The celebration also saw the presence of some County Superintendents.

How did they see the celebration? And how did that tie in with the president's development agenda? *MIA Renaissance* gauged the views of few of the Superintendents:

## Margibi, John Buway



"I wish our President a happy birth day. The people of Margibi are grateful for this occasion". They have always stood by her and supported her both during her first and second term; this is because we believe in her principles".

Superintendent Buway described the President's contribution to the County as enormous. According to him, most regions of the county have been connected by road including; the 19-miles Bong Mines to Kakata, Monrovia to Marshall City, Cotton Tree to Owensgrove as well as the reconditioning of the Kakata to Gibi Worth Bailey bridge, just to name a few. In addition to road connectivity which he described as a multiplier, Superintendent Buway

recounted the number of projects implemented from County and Social Development funds introduced by the President. He said Margibi has become an education hub evidenced by the annual ranking of students' in WAEC Exams.

## RiverCess, Wellington Geevon-Smith



For Superintendent Geevon-Smith, the 75<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of the president further serves to consolidate the stability for Liberians from all walks of Liberia.

"To maintain the peace and stability we enjoy today is the charge all Liberians must keep". He cautioned.

When asked about the level of progress made by RiverCess County under President Sirleaf's administration, he said,

"RiverCess County owes Madam President a lot. Everything called development in RiverCess County was put there by this administration. Indeed we are happy for this President," He added.

## Bong County, Selina Polson Mappy



"Bong County is very joyous. Personally, I'm so happy that the President is celebrating her 75<sup>th</sup> year".

Hon. Mappy, a female herself is still in doubt about who is capable to continue the President's style of leadership.

"What is worrisome to all of Bong County is the continuation of the President's legacy. We really want our president to nurture someone who will continue her legacy when her tenure comes to an end in 2018.

"We are proud of our president, the work she does and the way she does it. Bong County didn't know anything about County Development Funds or Social Development Funds (CDF/SDF), but today, we can boast of several development projects through these creative innovations introduced by our President".

## Sinoe, J. Milton Teajay



"Today, I look at this President, our leader, in two phases.

The first is the Human aspect of the president; we feel blessed as Council (Superintendents' Council of Liberia), with the tolerance, wisdom and patience of this President; not many administration actors have those virtues.

The second phase is the Political aspect. Politically the President has made herself the major cornerstone. She talks and works with everybody, and the regular consultation she holds with us the superintendents.

As granddaughter of Sinoe County, the people will never forget her. Happy birthday Madam President!!"

**Hon. Teahjay is also Chairman of Superintendents' Council of Liberia**

# Editorial

## President Begins 'Listening Tour' Next Year

**President Ellen Johnson** Sirleaf will begin a very unique nation-wide tour early next year. The President will of course, as expected, inspect several development projects in each county.



**However, the distinctiveness** of this tour will center on the fact that the President will 'listen' more than she will talk. She will visit the homes of what is referred to as the 'common people.' She will sit with them; chat with them; eat with them and more importantly, listen responsively to their many problems.

*'One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say.' - Bryant H. McGill*

**This upcoming tour** is meant to be a 'heart to heart' engagement by the people, for the people, with the President. There will not be any county official interpreting what he or she thinks the people's problems are.

**The President's listening** tour is expected to include youth groups, civil society groups, women's groups, Chiefs and Elders, business people, pen-pen riders, and others.

**It is no** doubt that listening is a compelling and peculiar thing, a kind of creative force, which no one can deny that the President possesses. Those who listen to us are the ones we gravitate toward. When we are listened to, it creates us, makes us unfold and expand.

**So as the** President prepares for her 'Listening Tour', The **MIA Renaissance** suggests the following: (1) **Look** interested – get interested, (2) **Involve** yourself by responding, (3) **Stay** on target, (4) **Test** your understanding, (5) **Evaluate** the message and (6) **Neutralize** your feelings.

## MIA Renaissance

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## Youth, Women Issues

Continued from front page

remain in the shadows, so to speak, and let citizens of both countries take charge of their own destiny, but will only provide guidance and support," Internal Affairs Morris M. Dukuly remarked.

His youthful Deputy Minister of Urban Affairs, Amos B. Tweh told a national radio audience recently that the upcoming gathering in La Cote d'Ivoire will "chew" extensively on youth and women empowerment issues with the ultimate aim of thoroughly dissecting and formulating strategies for implementation in both countries.

The first meeting of the Joint Chiefs and Elders in Zwedru ended on a successful high note with both Presidents Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia and Alassane Ouattara of La Cote d'Ivoire gracing the occasion, where a Joint Communique was signed. **Joe Roberts**

## NDRC assists disaster victims

About 2,275 persons are benefiting from the donation.

In Bong County, families in seven Districts including Salala, Suakoko, Yellequeh, Fuamah, Sanoyea, Zota, and Jorquilleh benefited from the NDRC intervention,

The items distributed to disaster victims were intended to assist the storm/fire victims reconstruct their severely damaged homes.

## A Big Thanks to MIA's Partners

The Ministry of Internal Affairs/MIA Renaissance wishes to extend a big 'THANK YOU' to all partners, supporters, friends and well-wishers for the pivotal role they played and continued to play in the overall peace and reconciliation initiative in Liberia, particularly during the JCCEM in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County. Special emphasis to the below listed:



United Nation Development Program  
(UNDP)



United Nations Mission in Liberia  
(UNMIL)



United Nations High Commission for Refugees  
(UNHCR)



Liberia Peace Building Office New York



Independent National Human Rights Commission



The Carter Center



Liberia National Police

Defense Ministry

EPS

NSA

Legislative Caucuses (Grand Gedeh, Nimba, River Gee and Maryland)

People of Grand Gedeh County

# Know Your Superintendents



*Bomi County, J. Samuel Brown*



*Bong County, Selina Polson Mappy*



*Gbarpolu County - Allen M. Gbowee*



*Grand Bassa County, Etweda Cooper*



*Cape Mount County, Imam M. Passawe*



*Grand Gedeh County, Peter L. Solo*



*Grand Kru County, Elizabeth Dempster*



*Lofa County, George S. Dunor*



**Margibi County, John Z. Buway**



**Maryland County, Nazarene B. Tubman**



**Montserrado County, Florence F. Brandy**



**Nimba County, Christiana Dagadu**



**Rivercess County, Wellington Geevon Smith**



**River Gee County, Daniel Johnson**

**County, Capital & Population - (2008 Census)**

- 1 Bomi - Tubmanburg -84,119
- 2 Bong - Gbarnga - 333,481
- 3 Gbarpolu - Bopulu - 83,388
- 4 Grand Bassa - Buchanan - 221,693
- 5 Grand Cape Mount - Robertsport 127,076
- 6 Grand Gedeh Zwedru - 125,258
- 7 Grand Kru - Barclayville - 57,913
- 8 Lofa - Voinjama 276,863
- 9 Margibi Kakata - 209,923
- 10 Maryland - Harper - 135,938
- 11 Montserrado - Bensonville - 1,118,241
- 12 Nimba - Sanniquellie - 462,026
- 13 Rivercess – Cestos City -71,509
- 14 River Gee - Fish Town - 66,789
- 15 Sinoe - Greenville - 102,391



**Sinoe County, J. Milton Teahjay**

## FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE JOINT COUNCIL OF CHIEFS AND ELDERS MEETING (JCCEM) LIBERIA - COTE D'IVOIRE

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

REPUBLIC OF COTE D'IVOIRE

JOINT COUNCIL OF CHIEFS AND ELDERS MEETING (JCCEM)  
LIBERIA - COTE D'IVOIRE

ZWEDRU, GRAND GEDEH COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, OCTOBER 16-19, 2013

## FINAL COMMUNIQUE

The first Joint Council of Chiefs and Elders Meeting (JCCEM) between the Republic of Liberia and the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire took place October 16-19, 2013 in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County Republic of Liberia.

The Meeting was a recommendation from the High Level Quadripartite Meeting between the Governments of Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire, with support from the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the UN Operations in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) held on April 5, 2013, in Monrovia, Liberia. It was agreed that 108 representatives of chiefs drawn from communities and provinces along the border of both countries shall form part of the Meeting.

The Meeting was graced by the presence of:

- His Excellency Mister Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, Chairperson of the Economic Community of West-African States (ECOWAS);
- Her Excellency Madam Ellen JOHNSON SIRLEAF, President of the Republic of Liberia, and Chairperson of the Mano River Union (MRU).

Also in attendance were:

- The Honorable Hamed Bakayoko, Minister of State, Minister of Interior and of Security of Cote d'Ivoire;
- The Honorable Morris M. Dukuly, Sr. Minister of Internal Affairs of Liberia;
- The Hon. Augustine K. Ngafuan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Liberia
- H.E Charles Koffi Diby, Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire
- The Honorable Paul KOFFI KOFFI, Minister of Defense to the President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire;

The two Heads of State expressed their satisfaction for the holding of this first JCCEM meeting, which provides a unique platform for discussion and exchange among the Chiefs, Elders, and administrative authorities as a means of ensuring continued security, reconciliation and peace in the border regions.

The two Heads of State reaffirmed their determination to support the use of customary and administrative diplomacy by the Chiefs, Elders, superintendents and prefects with a view to restoring peace and security in this region where the populations have strong historical and cultural ties.

The Meeting adopted the following resolution:

**"Issued by Joint Councils of Chiefs and Elders (JCCE) at the end of four-day Meeting held in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County, Republic of Liberia  
October 16 -19, 2013**

**Whereas**, the 2010-2011 electoral dispute and armed violence that engulfed Cote d'Ivoire, triggered a humanitarian crisis that led to the mass displacement of Ivoirians into surrounding countries;

**Whereas**, the impacts of the crisis created and exacerbated security issues, undermined reconciliation processes, stalled the repatriation of refugees to Cote d'Ivoire, and posed challenges to community development and youth employment projects in Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia;

**Whereas**, several initiatives and actions, within the framework of technical, economic, and military cooperation between the Republics of Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia, have been undertaken to create stability along the border;

**Whereas**, these initiatives included a joint technical assessment mission to assess the border situation undertaken in November 2011, and one of the challenges noted during that joint mission was the noticeable absence of cooperation between civilians and security authorities;

**Whereas**, this situation necessitated putting in place strategies to address the various challenges, which are informed by uncontrolled cross-border movements of persons and goods, the absence of security forces and strategies for controlling the movement of small arms and light weapons, the lack of participation of traditional authorities in addressing security and economic challenges, as well as inadequate access to basic services in cross-border communities;

**Whereas**, the Governments of Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire, with the support of the United Nations Missions in both countries held two quadripartite meetings on June 12, 2012 in Abidjan, and April 5, 2013, in Monrovia, respectively;

**Whereas**, at the two meetings, key issues in the region were discussed; including the security situation at the Liberian/Ivoirian border, the need for reconciliation in the region, youth empowerment and refugees issues;

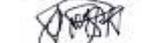
**Whereas**, the April 5 joint Communiqué principally called for the holding of a Joint Council of Chiefs and Elders Meeting (JCCEM) to be held in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County, and a joint technical committee to be established, to plan program and activities for the holding of the JCCEM;

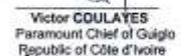
- 1. Recalling** that the maintenance of regional peace and security between our two countries is 'inextricably tied' to the overall survival and stability of our peoples and countries and underpinned by the UN Charter, the Constitutive Act of the AU, and the Revised ECOWAS Treaty;
  - 2. Realizing** the intense efforts and continuous support of UNMIL and UNOCI as well as the security apparatus of our two countries aimed at enhancing cooperation between civilian and security authorities at the Ivoirian-Liberian border on matters related to cross-border security;
  - 3. Cognizant** of the measurable progress the Mano River Region has made in promoting values that uphold democratic culture, peace, security and development in the past two decades;
  - 4. Noting** that the security situation in the region remains fragile, thereby necessitating sub-regional efforts to consolidate peace and security through regular cross-border meetings;
  - 5. Acknowledging** on-going initiatives at the local, national, regional and continental levels to build and sustain peace and security through the establishment of peace and security architectures directed towards addressing root causes of conflict and seek to transform structural dynamics of conflict through the enhancement of national reconciliation and social and economic infrastructure;
  - 6. Cognizant** of the existence of initiatives, structures and institutions for early warning and conflict prevention at various levels of maturity, harmonization, and coordination in the region;
  - 7. Knowing** that our respective governments are involved in designing appropriate response mechanisms to address risks and challenges for continued peace, stability, security and development;
  - 8. Noting** that the typology of these initiatives, structures and institutions reflect the contexts and peculiarities of both Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia;
- 2. Considering** that sustainable peace in our region requires the formulation of standard principles and objective criteria that guide the implementation of the agreed designed mechanisms.

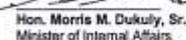
**Now therefore, we, the Chiefs, Elders, Youth and Women Representatives, Superintendents and Prefects representing counties and provinces along the border of both countries, resolved to:**

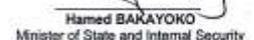
- Set up a technical working group for the implementation of recommendations and resolutions from the meeting, with focal points at the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Liberia) and Ministry of Interior (Côte d'Ivoire) appointed to monitor the process and update the steering committee on progress and challenges.
- Involve the JCCE in establishing, developing and sustaining national peace infrastructures,
- Encourage the participation of governments, civil society organizations, the private sector and the media in the search for durable peace;
- Implement appropriate economic, social and cultural cross-border stabilization interventions by development partners in cross-border towns and national reconciliation programmes, which cut across the divide;
- Facilitate the design and implementation of a trans-border initiative, within the context of both countries Strategic Roadmap for National Healing, Peacebuilding, and Reconciliation including members of the Diaspora of both countries.
- Urge the Liberian and Ivoirian governments to facilitate the self-empowerment of civil society, particularly women, youth, religious and community groups, and the media in the implementation of agreed strategies and programmes;
- Work with the administrative and political authorities, the refugees and UNHCR in order to find durable solutions aimed at facilitating the voluntary repatriation of refugees.

Done at Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County, Republic of Liberia, this 19<sup>th</sup> Day of October 2013"

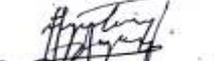
  
Jarred Nyire  
Paramount Chief  
Grand Gedeh County  
Republic of Liberia

  
Victor COULAYES  
Paramount Chief of Guiglo  
Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

  
Hon. Morris M. Dukuly, Sr.  
Minister of Internal Affairs  
Republic of Liberia

  
Hamed BAKAYOKO  
Minister of State and Internal Security  
Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

**WITNESSED BY:**

  
Hon. Augustine Kpèhe N'gafuan  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Liberia

  
Hon. Charles Koffi DIBY  
Minister of State/Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

# House Begins Public Engagement Today In Gbarnga



*House Speaker J. Alex Tyler*

The House of Representatives and official of the National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL) will begin a nationwide public engagement campaign in Gbarnga, Bong County today. The campaign is intended to solicit the inputs and views of Liberians about the country's emerging oil and gas sector.

Addressing the regular press briefing of the Ministry of Information last Thursday, House Speaker J. Alex Tyler said the nationwide tour will afford members of the Legislature the opportunity to interact with citizens who are expected to ask questions and make recommendations which would eventually go into formulating policies to govern the sector.

He told the press conference that the House has already mobilized the needed resources to facilitate the countrywide tour.

“We are leaving the Capitol to begin a nationwide public engagement process which will begin in

Gbarnga, Bong County and would extend to the north, central, western and eastern regions [of the country],” he said in his statement.

Speaker Tyler said the tour will be climaxed in Montserrado County with a national conference scheduled in January 2014.

He said the engagement of the citizens is vital in the reform process of the oil and gas sector, noting that this would help in setting shared priorities and

maintaining trust in the government. He added that the campaign will provide citizens the opportunity to have say in the reform process.

“Most importantly the House of Representatives considers this a viable approach for all of us to decide the reforms in the oil sector,” he noted.

According to him, the oil and gas business is a delicate matter that requires inputs from all stakeholders and common people across the country.

Meanwhile, Speaker Tyler has commended President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the leadership of the Liberia Senate including other stakeholders for their support to the reform process of the oil and gas sector.

The House Speaker said the nationwide tour is expected to be graced by members of the House of Representatives as well as representatives from the National Oil Company of Liberia among others.

# County Superintendents & Minister Dukuly to reactivate Communal Farming Program.



*Min. Dukuly and County Superintendents at Thursday meeting*

By D. Emmanuel Wheinyue

It was an entire day of discussion and brainstorming which focused on a county-focused initiative to agriculture as Liberia's dry season approaches.

County superintendents, upon the request of Internal Affairs Minister, Morris M. Dukuly, gathered in Monrovia Thursday to develop a strategy that will get them involved in what is referred to as 'eat what you grow and grow what you eat' program.

Rice and cassava are the principal food crops of Liberia; the country must import rice to meet its consumption need. That is why superintendents are particularly concerned, and have therefore decided to get involved.

At the close of the one day session, the county superintendents

and Minister Dukuly resolved to among other things reactivate Communal Farming.

According to the note of conclusion, each superintendent will voluntarily cultivate fifty (50) acres, while Minister Dukuly will cultivate two hundred acres of land beginning this year.

Each superintendent is expected to propose this new initiative to their respective County Council for support and continuation.

The County Council, comprising key stakeholders, is the highest decision-making body of each county on matters of county development.

Other local leaders will be encouraged to promote communal farming in their respective localities.

## NDRC assists disaster victims in Bong and Lofa Counties



*(L - R) A deroofed building by storm and NDRC Staff distributes zinc*

The National Disaster Relief Commission, NDRC, at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, has given non-food relief items, particularly building materials to several storm and fire victims in Bong and Lofa Counties.

"Following a thorough review of disaster incidents and assessment in the two counties, the NDRC decided to focus its intervention on zinc and nails". **That's according to Mrs. Louise Davis, Director of the NDRC Secretariat.**

The NDRC donated 561 bundles of quality zinc and 365 boxes of zinc nails to a total 351 family heads.

*Continued on page 3*