MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
CAPITOL HILL, MONROVIA-LIBERIA
P.O. BOX, 9008

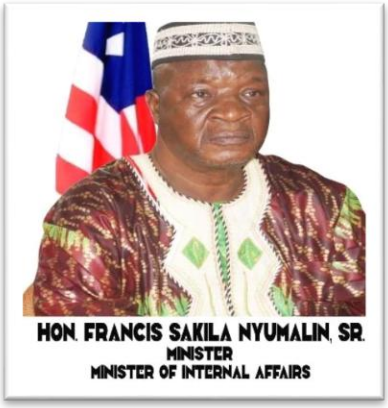
QUARTERLY REPORT

January 1-March 31, 2025

Theme: **Serving Liberia through Decentralization.**

DATE: April 15, 2025

FOREWORD



The Ministry of Internal Affairs made significant strides and leveraged several opportunities to advance local governance, in line with the Local Government Act of 2018. These accomplishments reflect the Ministry's commitment to supporting our national ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID) and the recently completed local government-led County Development Agendas (CDAs) of all 15 Counties. This Quarterly Report (January-March 2025) highlights outcomes of programs and projects supported by the Government and in collaboration with the UN and other development partners. We are proud of our shared commitment in promoting Decentralization, national peacebuilding and social cohesion. We have made a pledge that 2025 is a year for action which will require us to be decisive at some points, because the year 2024 was largely dedicated to planning and pace-setting. This pledge is also consistent with the Performance Management and Compliance System (PMCS) introduced by His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., to which I am a signatory. We are pleased to disclose that a Service Delivery Charter for the Ministry of Internal Affairs has been completed.

We are grateful to the Honorable Liberian Senate for the passage of the much-desired Act to create the Ministry of Local Government. Meanwhile, remain engaged with the Honorable House of Representatives for its concurrence.

Our participation in the 21st General Session of Africa-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) Conference from February 21-24, 2025, in New Delhi, India, was another major area focused on advancing staff capacity development with emphasis in local governance, peacebuilding, agriculture and technology. In the sub-region, we engaged in cross-border initiatives with the Ministry of Interior of Sierra Leone focusing on peace building and partnership. The Liberia Decentralization Program is receiving momentum as local and community members, particularly County Councils, have begun to actively participate in the local governance activities. I would like to applaud our donors, civil society organizations and the local governments for their continuous engagements in supporting priorities of the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development as envisioned by President Joseph N. Boakai, Sr'' **Think Liberia, Love Liberia and Build Liberia"**.

Thank you.

F. Sakila Nyumalin, Sr.
MINISTER
Ministry of Internal Affairs

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Acknowledgement

Liberian government and its people express gratitude to His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr. for his leadership in completing and launching County Development Agendas (CDAs) for all 15 counties during the first quarter of 2025.

The government also thanks development partners such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), and the Irish Government, as well as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), UN United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) for their financial and technical support.

We are pleased to commend Minister Francis Sackila Nyumalin, Sr. for his remarkable leadership and commitment. The Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs, the Governance Commission, and civil society organizations provide tremendous coordination and exchange of expertise. Local governments, including county councils, superintendents, administrative officers, county development officers, county finance officers, and service center coordinators, are also commended for their responsiveness in programming areas and submission of individual county reports.

The Municipal Governance Committee is also praised for its routine follow-up and contributions on the consolidation and validation of the National Development Agenda on Municipal Governance. The government also thanks the contributions of deputy and assistant ministers, directors, and heads of specialized programs for achieving the ministry's strategic objectives.

Acronyms

AAID	Arrest Agenda for Inclusive Development
ADRV	Alternative Dispute Resolution Validation
CBO	Community-Based Organizations
CCAT	County Capacity Assessment Tool
CDF	County Development Fund
CLAS	Community Livelihood and Agriculture Support
CSA	Civil Service Agency
CSCs	County Service Centers
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DEN-L	Development Education Network-Liberia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GC	Governance Commission
GOL	Government of Liberia
GREAT	Governance Reform and Accountability Transformation
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IDP	International Day of Peace
IFIMS	Internal Financial Management System
IMCD	Inter-Ministerial Committee on Decentralization
LACE	Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment
LEAD	Local Empowerment for Accountability and Decentralization
LGA2018	Local Government Act 2018
LIPA	Liberia Institute of Public Administration
LRI	Liberia Reconciliation Initiative
MAC	Ministries Agencies and Commission
MCAT	Municipal Capacity Assessment Tool
MFDP	Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
NCC	National Council of Chiefs

NCCRO	National Concession Conflict Resolution Office
NCCSO	National Council of Chiefs Support Office
NPRSC	National Peace Building & Reconciliation Steering Committee
ONPA	Office of the National Peace Ambassador
PBO	Peace Building Office
PMCS	Performance Management and Compliance System
PPCC	Public Procurement and Concession Commission
SCORE	Social Cohesion and Reconciliation
TRC	Truth and Reconciliation Commission
UN	United Nations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Wo

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) is tasked with implementing the National Policy on Decentralization and Local Governance and the National Peace and Reconciliation Roadmap. Under the leadership of Honorable F. Sakila Nyumalin, Sr., the MIA aims to improve coordination between the central government and local administrations, fostering participatory governance to enhance the lives of Liberians.

In early 2025, the MIA launched a Performance Management and Compliance System (PMCS) and a Service Delivery Charter for 2025-2028 to boost public service delivery and citizen engagement. The ministry's workforce increased to 4,478 personnel, with orientation sessions for new staff to align them with MIA's objectives.

Key achievements include participation in the African-Asian Rural Development Organization's session, securing commitments for capacity development, and distributing vehicles to county superintendents to support decentralization. However, challenges such as budget delays and logistical issues persist, impacting the effectiveness of County Service Centers (CSCs), which provided 1,503 services and generated significant revenue in the first quarter.

The MIA's peacebuilding initiatives included restoring calm in John Town after protests and collaborating with Sierra Leone on environmental protection. The Gender & Social Inclusion Unit focused on empowering women and vulnerable groups, while municipal governance reforms progressed with the reaffirmation of city statuses.

The Liberia Decentralization Support Program (LDSPII) approved its Annual Work Plan for 2025, emphasizing local government capacity enhancement. The ministry is also assessing the establishment of additional county treasuries to decentralize fiscal services.

County-specific reports highlight various challenges and achievements across Liberia. For instance, Montserrado County improved employee records but faced resource limitations, while Gbarpolu County struggled with access to essential services despite agricultural focus. Infrastructure projects in Margibi County and Grand Cape Mount County faced budget constraints, while Grand Kru County dealt with land disputes and illicit mining.

Overall, while progress is evident in various counties, significant challenges remain, necessitating coordinated efforts from both the central government and local administrations to ensure sustainable development and effective governance. The MIA remains committed to driving local governance reforms, enhancing service delivery, and fostering peace and reconciliation in Liberia.

2.0: Introduction

The Ministry of Internal Affairs is the lead Government agency responsible for implementation of the National Policy on Decentralization and Local Governance and as well as the rollout of the National Peace and Reconciliation Roadmap. MIA's mandate primarily targets coordination relations between central government and local administrations as well as guide, supervise, mentor, monitor local governments. The vision is to ensure a participatory, transparent and accountable local system of governance to serve as fulcrum for improving the lives of all Liberians.

Honorable F. Sakila Nyumalin, Sr. serves as the Minister along with four Deputy Ministers and eight Assistant Ministers. The Minister and each of the Deputy Ministers head a department; namely: Direction and Management, Administration, Research and Development Planning, Operations and Urban Affairs. Additionally, there are specialized programs with distinct functions under supervision of the Ministry as follows:

- Office of National Peace Ambassador
- Liberia Peacebuilding Office
- National Concession Dispute Resolution Office
- National Decentralization Implementation Secretariat
- National Council of Chiefs Secretariat
- National Security Council Office
- Gender & Social Inclusion Unit

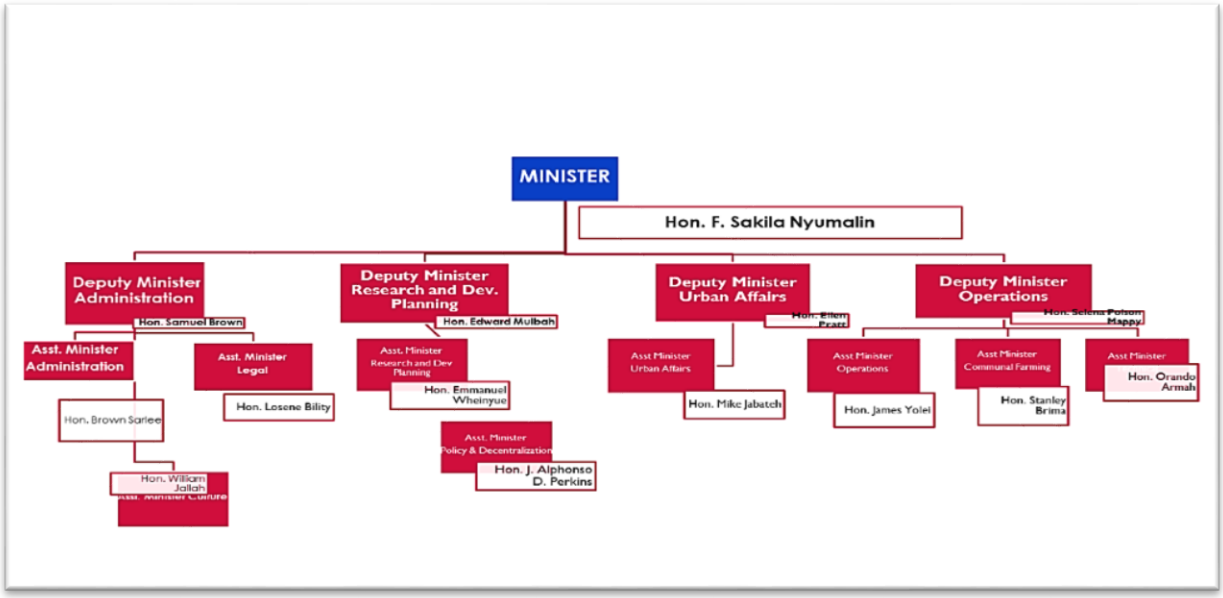
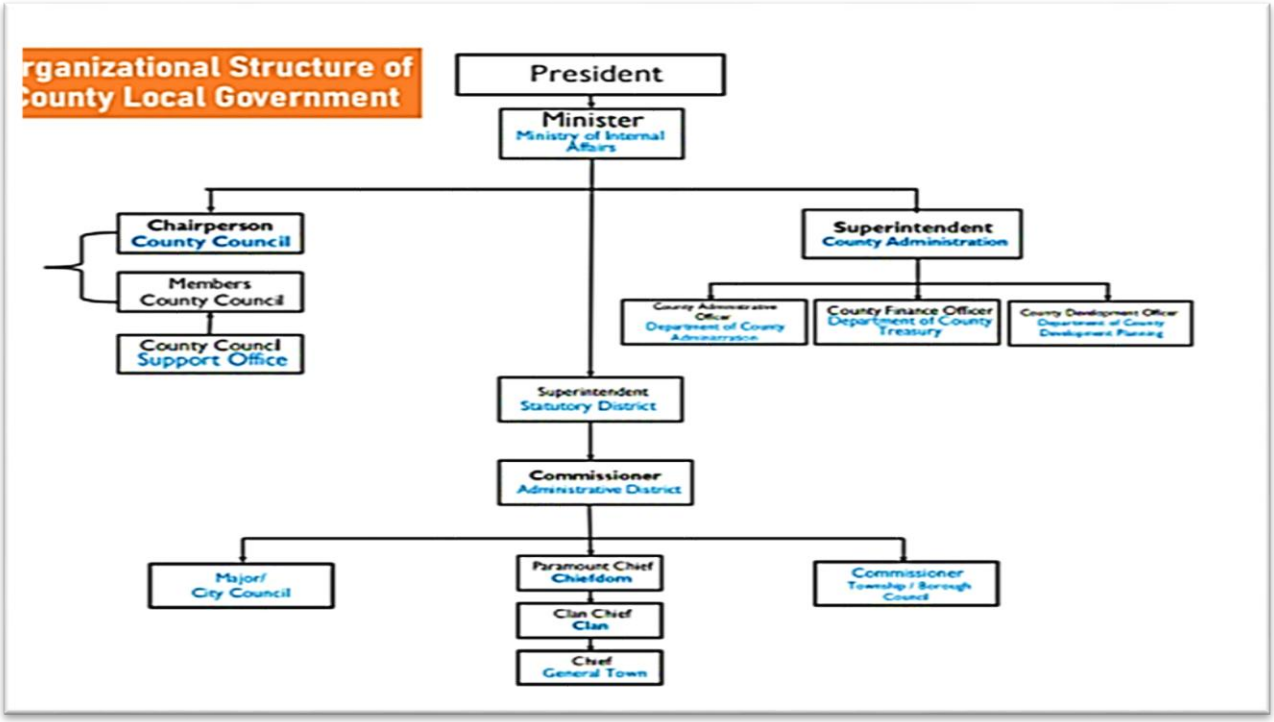


Figure 1.1 the Organogram of Central Administration

At the local government level, the County Superintendent is the head of the County Administration, while there is a 9-member County Council in each county whose primary functions include but are not limited to approval of development plans and budgets as shown in figure 1.2.

Figure 1.2 the Organogram of Local Government Administration



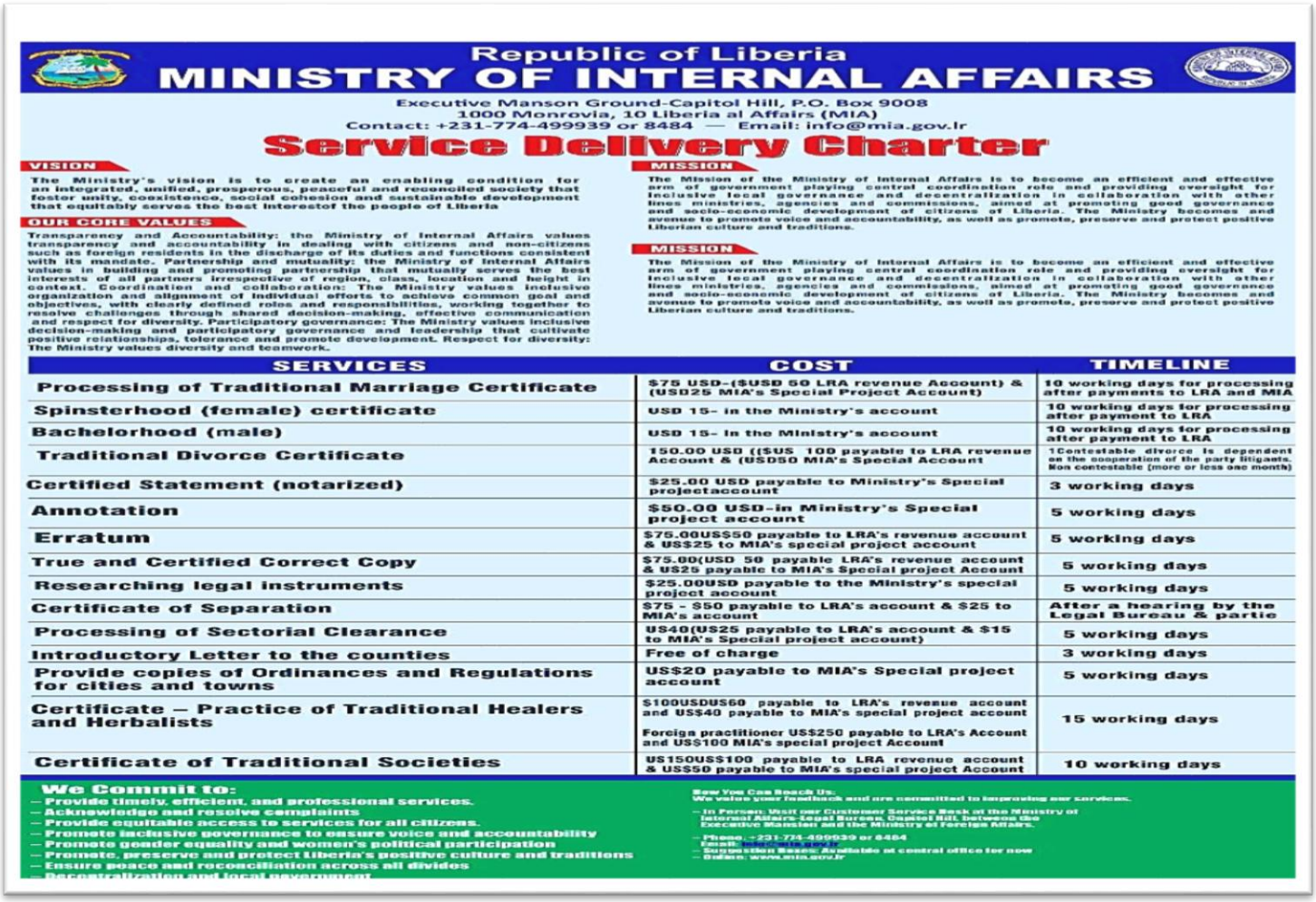
3.0: Ministry of Internal Affairs Launches Service Delivery Charter for Enhanced Public Engagement

In accordance with the Perforce Contract, which was signed by His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., President of the Republic of Liberia, and the Honorable F. Sakila Nyumalin, Sr., Minister of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Internal Affairs created and published its Service Delivery Charter (SDC) during the period under review. The ministry Service Delivery Charter was created for the 2025–2028 timeframe. The Service Charter will act as a roadmap for informing the public about the services the Ministry provides. The Charter also outlines (figure 1.3) the rights

of citizens, the procedures for filing complaints, and the procedures for remedy in the event that those rights are infringed.

The Ministry guarantees the public that the Charter will be implemented effectively. Two official landlines (short codes: 8484 and +231-774-499-939) and an email address (info@mia.gov.lr) were acquired for customer service in order to enhance open government and an efficient citizen feedback system. Additionally, the MIA put suggestion boxes for consumer feedback in clearly accessible areas. The ministry also established official domain email accounts for officials and staff members and revived its official website, www.mia.gov.lr.

Figure 1.3. Service Delivery Charter



Republic of Liberia

MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

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Service Delivery Charter

VISION

The Ministry's vision is to create an enabling condition for an integrated, unified, prosperous, peaceful and reconciled society that fostor unity, coexistence, social cohesion and sustainable development that equitably serves the best interestof the people of Liberia

OUR CORE VALUES

Transparency and Accountability: the Ministry of Internal Affairs values transparency and accountability in dealing with citizens and non-citizens such as foreign residents in the discharge of its duties and functions consistent with its mandate. Partnership and mutuality: the Ministry of Internal Affairs values in building and promoting partnership that mutually serves the best interests of all partners irrespective of region, class, location and height in context. Coordination and collaboration: The Ministry values inclusive organization and alignment of individual efforts to achieve common goal and objectives, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities, working together to resolve challenges through shared decision-making, effective communication and respect for diversity. Participatory governance: The Ministry values inclusive decision-making and participatory governance and leadership that cultivate positive relationships, tolerance and promote development. Respect for diversity: The Ministry values diversity and teamwork.

MISSION

The Mission of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is to become an efficient and effective arm of government playing central coordination role and providing oversight for inclusive local governance and decentralization in collaboration with other lines ministries, agencies and commissions, aimed at promoting good governance and socio-economic development of citizens of Liberia. The Ministry becomes and avenue to promote voice and accountability, as well as promote, preserve and protect positive Liberian culture and traditions.

MISSION

The Mission of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is to become an efficient and effective arm of government playing central coordination role and providing oversight for inclusive local governance and decentralization in collaboration with other lines ministries, agencies and commissions, aimed at promoting good governance and socio-economic development of citizens of Liberia. The Ministry becomes and avenue to promote voice and accountability, as well as promote, preserve and protect positive Liberian culture and traditions.

SERVICES	COST	TIMELINE
Processing of Traditional Marriage Certificate	$75 USD-($USD 50 LRA revenue Account) & (USD25 MIA's Special Project Account)	10 working days for processing after payments to LRA and MIA
Spinsterhood (female) certificate	USD 15- in the Ministry's account	10 working days for processing after payment to LRA
Bachelorhood (male)	USD 15- in the Ministry's account	10 working days for processing after payment to LRA
Traditional Divorce Certificate	150.00 USD ($US 100 payable to LRA revenue Account & (USD50 MIA's Special Account	1Contestable divorce is dependent on the cooperation of the party litigants. Non contestable (more or less one month)
Certified Statement (notarized)	$25.00 USD payable to Ministry's Special projectaccount	3 working days
Annotation	$50.00 USD-in Ministry's Special project account	5 working days
Erratum	$75.00US$50 payable to LRA's revenue account & US$25 to MIA's special project account	5 working days
True and Certified Correct Copy	$75.00(USD 50 payable LRA's revenue account & US25 payable to MIA's Special project Account	5 working days
Researching legal instruments	$25.00USD payable to the Ministry's special project account	5 working days
Certificate of Separation	$75 - $50 payable to LRA's account & $25 to MIA's account	After a hearing by the Legal Bureau & partie
Processing of Sectorial Clearance	US40(US25 payable to LRA's account & $15 to MIA's Special project account)	5 working days
Introductory Letter to the counties	Free of charge	3 working days
Provide copies of Ordinances and Regulations for cities and towns	US$20 payable to MIA's Special project account	5 working days
Certificate – Practice of Traditional Healers and Herbalists	$100USDUS60 payable to LRA's revenue account and US$40 payable to MIA's special project account Foreign practitioner US$250 payable to LRA's Account and US$100 MIA's special project Account	15 working days
Certificate of Traditional Societies	US150US$100 payable to LRA revenue account & US$50 payable to MIA's special project Account	10 working days

We Commit to:
- Provide timely, efficient, and professional services.
- Acknowledge and resolve complaints
- Provide equitable access to services for all citizens.
- Promote inclusive governance to ensure voice and accountability
- Promote gender equality and women's political participation
- Promote, preserve and protect Liberia's positive culture and traditions
- Ensure peace and reconciliation across all divides
- Decentralization and Local Government

How You Can Reach Us:
We value your feedback and are committed to improving our services.
- In Person: Visit our Customer Service Desk at the Ministry of Internal Affairs-Legal Bureau, Capitol Hill, between the Executive Mansion and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Phone: +231-774-499939 or 8484
- Email: info@mia.gov.lr
- Suggestion Boxes: Available at central office for now
- Online: www.mia.gov.lr

4.0. HUMAN RESOURCES

4.1 Employee Payroll Overview for Q1 2025

This section provides the overall number of employees, the number of employees added to payroll, and the monthly gross salary. (Table1.1 to 1.3) displays the payroll and staff figures for the first quarter of 2025. The table includes the following crucial components; the monthly personnel data for each month from January to March 2025. The quarter saw the addition of thirty-five (35) new employees, bringing the total number from January to March to four thousand four hundred and seven-eight (4,478) employees which sum up to three million three hundred eighteen united state dollars/23 ($3,003,318.23) as the total gross compensation for the first quarter.

NO.	MONTH	TOTAL PERSONNEL	PERSONNEL ADDED ON PAYROLL	MONTHLY GROSS SALARY
1.1	JANUARY	4443	0	**$ 997,118.77**
1.2	FEBRUARY	4459	16	**$ 998,248.21**
1.3	MARCH	4478	19	**$ 1,007,951.25**
TOTAL OF FIRST QUARTER - FY2025			**35**	**$ 3,003,318.23**

Table 1.1 The Analysis of Central office personnel for 1st quarter of FY2025

NO.	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT IN USD
2.1	COMPENSATION CEILING FOR FY-2025	$ 12,116,025.00
2.2	TOTAL MONTHLY GROSS -FIRST QUARTER - 2025	$ 3,003,318.23
DIFFERENCE/BALANCES (FOR APR.-DEC 2025		**$ 9,112,706.77**

Table 1.2 Summary of the Analysis of Central office personnel for 1st quarter of FY2025

PERSONNEL TO BE PLACED ON THE MIA PAYROLL AS OF APRIL 2025		
NO.	**ITEM/DESCRIPTION**	**TOTAL PERSONNEL**
3.1	APPOINTEES AS OF MARCH 2025	149
3.2	LACC BLOCKED LIST (FEB. 2025)	159
3.3	APPOINTEES FOR APRIL 2025	20
TOTAL YET ON PAYROLL AS OF APRIL 2025		**328**

Table 1.3 The Analysis of personnel to be placed on MIA payroll as of April FY2025

4.2. Capacity Building and Training

In collaboration with the USAID/LEAD Project, field data collection and training activities were carried out in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, throughout the reviewed period. The creation of the cities was aided by the data-collecting process utilizing specialist mapping software such as Organic Map, MAP.ME, Street Complete, and Open Data Kit (ODK). Plans for gathering fundamental data that led to the Domestic Revenue Mobilization (DRM) constituted the basis of the data collection. The project's respective targets were Gompa in Nimba County, Gbarnga in Bong County, and Buchanan in Grand Bassa County. Unfortunately, USAID's dissolution and the loss of US government assistance via the agency brought the initiative to a sudden stop.

As part of the human resource development process to foster the Decentralization program, two employees of MIA participated in a study tour sponsored through the World Bank funded Governance Reform and Accountability Transformation (GREAT) Project. The two staff; namely: Mr. Festus Z. Tarpar and Winston A. Collins was part of a delegation to Nairobi, Kenya. The team visited the National Treasury and other Government functionaries overseeing Public Financial Management, Decentralization, and Donor-funded projects.

The Study Tour took place from March 24- 28, 2025.

It afforded the Liberian team, predominantly made of civil servants the opportunity to interact with their Kenyan counterparts and learn from their experiences in Local governance, Public Financial Management and service delivery.

The orientation programs for government officials in the first quarter, brought together 48 participants from both central office and local government of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) to align with its mission and vision. Key topics included professional behavior, workplace ethics, and policies on insurance and human resources, led by senior and technical staff. This orientation is crucial for ensuring effective public service delivery.

Scholarship Opportunities was awarded to Onesimus G. Vanyan and Prince S. Harding, employees of the MIA, to pursue their master's degrees abroad. Onesimus is reading Agricultural Engineering in India, while Prince is studying Public Policy & Leadership in South Korea. Their studies are supported by a renewed collaboration with the African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), which is also providing scholarships to three other Liberians from different universities.

Figure 1.4. During the orientation programs

Figure 1.5. Picture of the Training Director

4.3 The Outcomes of the ARRDO Conference in New Delhi, February 2025

The ARRDO Conference was held in New Delhi, the capital of India, from February 21 to 24, 2025. The Honorable Minister of Internal Affairs, joined by Deputy Minister Edward K. Mulbah, who serves as AARDO's focal point, led a three-member Liberian delegation that participated. Following bilateral talks between Minister Nyumalin and the Indian minister in charge of communications, agriculture, and rural development, the following outcomes were reached:

1) Support the training of thirty local government officials in rural development by providing capacity-building assistance.
2) A request for assistance with the Liberia telecommunications system's 4G technology,
3) Assistance for young Liberians undergoing short- to medium-term capacity development training, and
4) Assistance for the development of rural communities.

Figure 1.6. During the 21st Session (AARDO) held in New Delhi, India.

In theory, the Indian government promised to comply with these demands and promised to get in touch with the Liberian administration in the months that followed the evaluation. Additionally, a Center of Excellence for learning and research drones to support large-scale agricultural production capacity for mechanized farming, and short-term training for 30 to 50 young Liberians in drone operations and management were all pledged by the DRONE Technology Firm of India.

5.0: Driving the Change- Local Governance and Decentralization Reforms

5.1: County Superintendents receive Vehicles to facilitate Decentralization:

A crucial aspect that must be passed down is the absence of logistics that might improve output. A Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) conducted in June 2024 found that recently hired officials lacked automobiles and other essential operational equipment. Both MIA Central Office and county authorities were unable to perform most of their duties due to this problem.

Despite this difficulty, the Liberian government took an effort to reduce tension by allocating funds for car purchases in the 2024 National Budget. Even though the minister, his deputy, and assistant ministers have not yet received automobiles, the Internal Affairs Minister made sure that the resources available be utilized to buy cars for county superintendents because of the restricted finances.

Figure 1.7. Fifteen (15) Toyota Hilux double cabin pickups for County Superintendents

On February 5, 2025, fifteen (15) Toyota Hilux double-cabin trucks were delivered to the counties assigned to county superintendents. Honorable Sylvester Gribsby, Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, and Honorable Galakpai W. Kortimai, Director General of the General Services Agency, the organization responsible for managing government assets, graced the Executive Mansion during the ceremony which marked the delivery of the vehicles to county superintendents.

Figure 1.8. At the turnover ceremony of the vehicles; From L-R Hon. Sylvester Gribsby Minister of State, Hon. Kou Gono Nimba County superintendent, Hon. Galakpai W. Kortimai Director General at GSA and F. Sakila Nyumalin, Sr Internal Affairs Minister

5.2 MIA to establish a Local Government Training Center

The Ministry has started talking about creating a local government training center to prepare employees for work before the full implementation of decentralization measures. Once created, the center will help close the present capacity gap by acting as a central location for frequent training and capacity building for local governments. The first training sessions will be held at the

Figure 1.9. During the Deputy Minister visit at DEN-L Training facilities

Development Education Network—Liberia (DEN—L), which is headquartered in Gbarnga, Bong County, as a result of these discussions. For the strategy to be implemented as quickly as possible, the ministry has pledged to work with the Ministry of Education, academic institutions, and donor partners. To begin the proposal, the ministry, led by Deputy Minister Edward K. Mulbah, met with DEN-L officials in Gbarnga on March 19, 2025. Deputy Minister Mulbah visited and toured DEN-L's current training facilities.

5.3: Board approves Liberia Decentralization Support Program (LDSPII) Annual Work plan

Liberia Decentralization Support Program policy is the main focus of the program's board. Under the leadership of the Liberian president, it is the second-highest decision-making body after the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Decentralization.

Among other things, the first board meeting for 2025 authorized the program's 2025 annual work plan and recommended the 2024 annual report. While the GOL contributes independently, the UNDP manages a pool of cash from contributors like Sweden, Ireland, UNPBF, and UNDP. For the 2025 annual work plan, there were several initiatives, such as affirmation of some cities,

Figure 2.0. During the first LDSP board meeting held at MIA conference room

Assistance for local government capacity, and the Cabinet Secretariat's coordination of the Performance Management and Compliance System. A consultant was hired to draft the project document for the third phase of the LDSP (2026-2030), and the board gave its approval for this phase as well.

5.4: Reports from County Service Centers

As indicated in the below matrix, the County Service Centers (CSCs) continue to offer basic documentation services to the public and also raise Government revenues. During the First Quarter, 1,503 people obtained services at the CSCs, 852 were males while 651 were females. In revenue, the CSCs raised LRD4, 351,950.00 and USD6, 905.00, respectively.

It’s worth noting that the above information was received from ONLY five Centers (Bong, Margibi, Maryland, Rivercess and Grand Kru). \

i. REPORT ON COUNTY SERVICE CENTERS FIRST QUARTER -2025

No.	County	Male	Female	# of Service	Couple	LD $	USD $	Remarks
1	BONG	116	111	19	27	2,667,435.00	2,190.00	
2	Gbarpolu	0	0	0	0	-	0	failed to submit
3	Grand Cape Mt.	0	0	0	0	-	0	failed to submit
4	Nimba	0	0	0	0	-	0	failed to submit
5	Bomi	0	0	0	0	-	0	failed to submit
6	Margibi	177	106	16	16	1,018,985.00	4,110.00	
7	Rivergee	0	0	0	0	-	0	failed to submit
8	Grand Bassa	0	0	0	0	-	0	failed to submit
9	Lofa	0	0	0	0	-	0	failed to submit
10	Maryland	43	16	8	0	120,400.00	570	
11	Rivercess	249	265	14	0	145,800.00	35	
12	Sinoe	0	0	0	0	-	0	failed to submit
13	Grand Gedeh	0	0	0	0	-	0	failed to submit
14	Grand Kru	267	153	8	0	399,330.00	0	
15	Montserrado	0	0	0	0	-	0	non-functional
GRAND TOTAL		**852**	**651**	**65**	**43**	**4,351,950.00**	**6,905.00**	

Table 1.4. Reports from County Service per Counties

Challenges of CSCs

- Delay in the remittance of budgetary allotment to CSC impedes recurrent expenditures
- Delayed to appoint recently recruited Coordinators, many of the current CSC Coordinators are not motivated and committed anymore especially when they are aware of not being retained following years of sacrifice.
- Lack of motivation and capacity building training in customer service, data collection and processing
- Lack of logistics such as office equipment (laptop and desktop computers), and furniture
- Lack of internet connectivity
- Lack of mobility to enhance awareness campaign on service delivery, and the use of the County Service Center
- The lack of all the specialized software at the County Service Center is a major set-back to the County's revenue generation
- No Revenue sharing in place contrary to Chapter 7.1&2 of the Revenue Sharing Law
- Birth certificate limited to newborn to 12 years
- Full authorized signatory for MOCI business registration certificates
- The solar panels supplying power to the service center are currently nonfunctional

5.6: MIA/MFDP Conducts Assessment to establish additional County Treasuries

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Finance and Development Planning conducted assessment to prepare local governments ahead of additional County Treasuries. Honorable Selena Polson Mappy, Deputy Minister for Operations led a team from MIA which collaborated with the MFDP team. The treasuries are pivotal towards decentralizing fiscal and monetary services at the county-level without traveling to Monrovia.

Figure 2.1. Deputy Minister Mappy and the team of trainees.

6.0: Strengthening local governance through partnership

The Ministry of Internal Affairs, in partnership with NAYMOTE Partners for Democratic Development, a national civil society organization, organized an impactful forum for local leaders from Montserrado, Nimba, and Grand Bassa Counties in Gbarnga City, Bong County. The one-day event held on March 21, 2025 brought together dedicated officials committed to improving the quality of life in their counties. Honorable Edward K, Mulbah, Deputy Minister for Research and Development Planning participated in a day long capacity development training Session, where he made presentations on decentralization and local government. Local government stakeholders from Montserrado, Bong, and Nimba and Grand Bassa counties participated in the event. Key discussions included: addressing challenges posed by over-centralized governance and empowering local governments, Networking, Knowledge Sharing and the adoption of responsive governance practices.

Figure 2.2. Forum on Capacity Building for Local Leaders from Montserrsdo, Nimba, Grand Bassa, and Bona.

7.0: MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE REFORMS

7.1 Commencement of City Re-affirmation in line with the Local Government Act of 2018

Section 2.1 (6d.) of the Local Government Act of 2018 stipulates that a locality must meet the minimum criteria to qualify as a city. As a legal requirement of the LGA-2018, the Ministry of Internal Affairs must report to the Legislature on the status of each city, town, and borough within 7 years of the Act's passage (which means December 2025).

In view of the aforementioned, during the period under review, MIA through the Department of Urban Affairs Commenced the reaffirmation of cities and townships to assess which cities and towns meet the criteria to remain as cities and those that will be relegated to township status. The affirmation activities were implemented in three counties: Bong (9 cities), Grand Bassa (4 cities),

Figure 2.3.Deputy Min. Pratt & Edina Mayor tour the historic Edina City in Grand Bassa County

and Margibi (3 cities). Following these assessments, the Ministry of Internal Affairs is mandated to reaffirm their status and report to the Legislature with recommendations of the current cities that meet the criteria set forth by the LGA to be chartered.

Additionally, the team conducted training of mayors, including county capital city mayors and Mayors of secondary cities held in Buchanan and Kakata Cities, respectively. The training was attended by five hundred fifty participants (550); 250 males and 300 females. These activities were funded by UNDP through the Liberia Decentralization Support Program 2025 Annual Work plan. For chartering. Others that will not meet the criteria will be relegated to town status.

7.2: Development Controls and Zoning

During the first Quarter, the draft National Zoning Law was finalized and led by MPW, MIA and a consortium of Ministries, Agencies and commissions (MACs) who participated in the update and finalization of the National Zoning Law. This document will serve as the foundation for developing and updating zoning ordinances and development codes for cities nationwide.

7.3: Spatial Development Land Use Plans developed

With funding from the LURP Project, MIA is participating in the development of land use plans in three cities: Buchanan, Gbarnga and. The project is being implemented by an international design firm and MIA is providing technical support to the local consultant

7.4: USAID funded Countywide Sanitation Activity (CWSA) project

One of the key donor-supported initiatives being implemented in collaboration with the Department of Urban Affairs at the Ministry of Internal Affairs is the USAID funded Countywide Sanitation Activity (CWSA). This five-year project, implemented from September 1, 2022 to September 30, 2027, is aimed at achieving a permanent end to open defecation (OD) in five counties: Montserrado (rural), Bong, Lofa, Nimba, and Grand Bassa. The CWSA is implemented by Population Services International (PSI), leading a consortium that includes Concern Worldwide, Athena Infonomics, and Gusceman Incorporated. The project's approach is rooted in a coordinated network of public, private, and community actors, enabling Liberian households to construct improved sanitation facilities. The consortium's interventions focus on four key result oriented areas: ➢ Improved sanitation governance ➢ Adoption of key sanitation behaviors ➢ Strengthened sanitation markets ➢ Increased financing for sanitation. Unfortunately, the closure of USAID has negatively impacted the project.

7.5: Project activities with WINROCK implemented

During the reporting period, the Ministry of Internal Affairs worked with the Liberia Land Authority to conduct land survey and provide deeds for all waived lands for the construction of the water systems in four (4) communities (Dolo's Town, Yarnwuellie, Baypolu and Sarah Johnson Quarter-Gate 15) ➢ worked with the Superintendent Offices in Margibi and Montserrado along with their procurement teams to evaluate and select water service providers (WSPs) for four (4) water supply systems in the four (4) communities. MIA supported the procurement team as an

observer to the entire procurement evaluation and selection process. ➢ Dolo's Town Water System – Lofa Mineral Water Company ➢ Yarnwuellie Town Water System – Kamara Business Incorporated ➢ Baypolu Town Water System – Glory Mineral Water Company ➢ Sarah Johnson Quarter – Gate 15 Water System – Only one (1) bid was submitted (Varney Construction Company) and the Superintendent Office along with the County Procurement team is finalizing the evaluation and selection process. ➢ working with Superintendents in applying for letters of No-Objection from PPCC. Due to the transition of the Executive Director of PPCC, the process is pending. Currently, MIA is working with the Winrock International team on the assets disposal and site handover schedule for the four (4) water systems.

7.6: Capacity development and training of LGAs Mayoral Conference and Training with Sister Cities International

The Ministry of Internal Affairs, represented by the Deputy Minister for Urban Affairs, Honorable Ellen O. Pratt participated in a Mayor's Conference hosted by Sister Cities International in collaboration with the National Municipal Council in Gbarnga, Bong County. The conference was the "Mayoral Conference and Training with Sister Cities International". The primary purpose was to reinforce and develop city profiles. A total of 24 cities were represented by 20 city mayors and 4 city managers. Twelve (12) counties were represented.

8.0: REGULATION OF CULTURAL AND TRADITIONAL PRACTICES IN LIBERIA

8.1: MIA and National Council of Chiefs Suspend Poro and Sande Activities nationwide

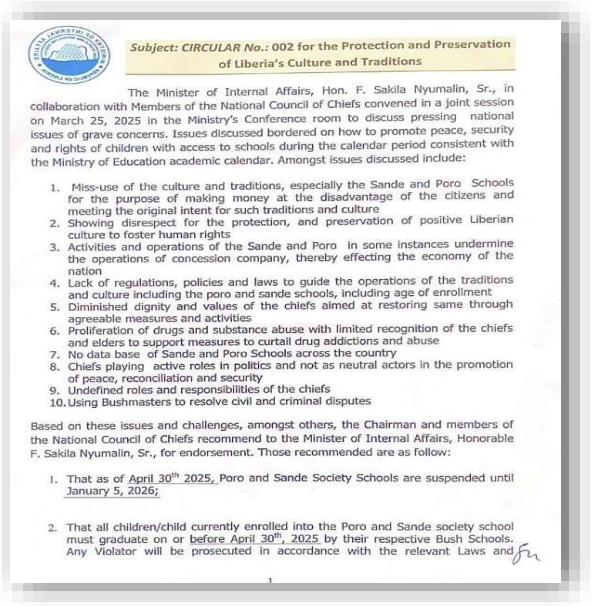
In Consonant with its statutory mandate to monitor, supervise and coordinate all culture and traditional activities throughout the Republic of Liberia with more emphasis placed on Sande and Poro activities, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, with advice from the Bureau of Culture Affairs, endorsed the suspension of all traditional practices related to Poro and Sande practices nationwide. The decision followed a series of complaints regarding violation of cultural and traditional practices and regulations previously issued aimed at safeguarding the rich cultures and tradition of the country.

During the period of the suspension, the Ministry will collaborate with the National Council of Chiefs and other stakeholders to harmonize issues of allegations of forceful initiations especially for school gong children, security and rights of children with access to schools during the calendar period consistent with the Ministry of Education academic calendar.

Details of the suspension are contained in Circular No. 002.

Figure 2.4. Minister Nyumalin meets Council of chiefs

Circular No: 002 for the Protection and Preservation of Liberia's Culture and Traditions



Subject: CIRCULAR No.: 002 for the Protection and Preservation of Liberia's Culture and Traditions

The Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. F. Sakila Nyumalin, Sr., in collaboration with Members of the National Council of Chiefs convened in a joint session on March 25, 2025 in the Ministry's Conference room to discuss pressing national issues of grave concerns. Issues discussed bordered on how to promote peace, security and rights of children with access to schools during the calendar period consistent with the Ministry of Education academic calendar. Amongst issues discussed include:

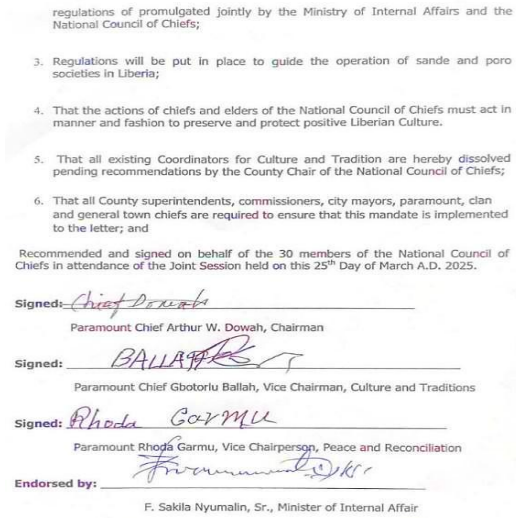
1. Miss-use of the culture and traditions, especially the Sande and Poro Schools for the purpose of making money at the disadvantage of the citizens and meeting the original intent for such traditions and culture
2. Showing disrespect for the protection, and preservation of positive Liberian culture to foster human rights
3. Activities and operations of the Sande and Poro in some instances undermine the operations of concession company, thereby effecting the economy of the nation
4. Lack of regulations, policies and laws to guide the operations of the traditions and culture including the poro and sande schools, including age of enrollment
5. Diminished dignity and values of the chiefs aimed at restoring same through agreeable measures and activities
6. Proliferation of drugs and substance abuse with limited recognition of the chiefs and elders to support measures to curtail drug addictions and abuse
7. No data base of Sande and Poro Schools across the country
8. Chiefs playing active roles in politics and not as neutral actors in the promotion of peace, reconciliation and security
9. Undefined roles and responsibilities of the chiefs
10. Using Bushmasters to resolve civil and criminal disputes

Based on these issues and challenges, amongst others, the Chairman and members of the National Council of Chiefs recommend to the Minister of Internal Affairs, Honorable F. Sakila Nyumalin, Sr., for endorsement. Those recommended are as follow:

1. That as of April 30th 2025, Poro and Sande Society Schools are suspended until January 5, 2026;

2. That all children/child currently enrolled into the Poro and Sande society school must graduate on or before April 30th, 2025 by their respective Bush Schools. Any Violator will be prosecuted in accordance with the relevant Laws and

8.2:



regulations of promulgated jointly by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Council of Chiefs;

3. Regulations will be put in place to guide the operation of sande and poro societies in Liberia;

4. That the actions of chiefs and elders of the National Council of Chiefs must act in manner and fashion to preserve and protect positive Liberian Culture.

5. That all existing Coordinators for Culture and Tradition are hereby dissolved pending recommendations by the County Chair of the National Council of Chiefs;

6. That all County superintendents, commissioners, city mayors, paramount, clan and general town chiefs are required to ensure that this mandate is implemented to the letter; and

Recommended and signed on behalf of the 30 members of the National Council of Chiefs in attendance of the Joint Session held on this 25th Day of March A.D. 2025.

Signed: _____
Paramount Chief Arthur W. Dowah, Chairman

Signed: _____
Paramount Chief Gbotorlu Ballah, Vice Chairman, Culture and Traditions

Signed: _____
Paramount Rhoda Garmu, Vice Chairperson, Peace and Reconciliation

Endorsed by: _____
F. Sakila Nyumalin, Sr., Minister of Internal Affair

National of Chiefs Support Office (NCCSO)

Chapter 3.9: (a) of the Local Government Act of 2018 clearly states that the Council Support Office shall provide technical, administrative and financial services support and overall coordination of the affairs of the National Council of Chiefs. During the First Quarter, the Council Support Office embarked on the translation of the Local Government Act of 2018 into five local dialects (Bassa, Gola, Kissi, Mende and Gio and Mano).

i. Challenges

The Council Support Office has witnessed little attention has been paid to the relevance of the NCCSO Operations thereby affecting effective community and stakeholder engagements.

The Office is underfunded beginning FY 2025, and this challenge retards field operations focusing on community and stakeholder engagement across the country. The sense of urgency to execute and deliver on programs and targets is one immediate consideration the MFDP must take as a priority.

9.0: GENDER & SOCIAL INCLUSION UNIT (GSIU)

The primary program focus of the GSIU in 2025 is mainstreaming gender and empowering women and vulnerable groups in the national development processes.

Below are key achievements implemented as by the GSIU:

9.1: Gender Mainstreaming and Social Inclusion:

Organized one training on gender mainstreaming and social inclusion for County Superintendents, City Mayors, Paramount Chiefs and District Commissioners from Bomi, Grand Cape Mount and Gbarpolu Counties. 41 participants were trained constituting 25 males and 16 females.

9.2: Coordination Meeting

One Coordination Meeting was organized aimed at enhancing knowledge and building capacities among government partners with the support from the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection. These collaborative efforts significantly supported the comprehensive approach to addressing workplace inequality between male and female.

9.3: International Women´s Day Celebration in Monrovia:

The program brought together women from various MACs and the celebration provided a platform to celebrate the achievements of women across various fields and to recognize the contributions they made to society.

10.0 PEACEBUILDING, RECONCILIATION AND SOCIAL COHESION

10.1: MIA and partners restore calm to John Town, Lofa County following Protests

On January 9, 2025, The Ministry of Internal Affairs actively engaged with the citizens of John Town following protests sparked by the tragic death of a man identified as Yarkpawolo Moiseema in the holding cell of the Liberia National Police (LNP). According to reports, Moiseema was assisting law enforcement officers with the investigation into the death of a lady named Moiyoungo Keleko, whose body was discovered in Duogomai Town. The community's anger over Moiseema's death, which occurred shortly after he provided critical information regarding Keleko's case, led to significant unrest, including the destruction of the local Police Station and Magisterial Court, as well as the establishment of roadblocks in the area.

Immediately Minister Nyumalin dispatched a team headed by Honorable Orando Armah, Assistant Minister for Technical Services who worked with other stakeholders to restore calm. During the discussions, the officials expressed their condolences to the family of Moiseema. They assured the community that a thorough investigation would be conducted to bring those responsible for his death to justice. “We understand the pain and frustration felt by the residents of John Town, and we are committed to ensuring accountability,” Honorable Armah stated.

10.2 Liberia & Sierra Leone partner to protect Gola Forest Landscape:

The Gola Forest Landscape plays a vital role in fostering sustainable peace, security, and resilience in our region. By empowering local community members, forest rangers, and border authorities through technical support and resources, we can safeguard our borders, conserve our forests, and ultimately minimize cross-border conflicts, fostering peace and harmony.

Collaboration among stakeholders of the two countries brings together diverse strengths and opportunities.

These discussions were held when Minister Nyumalin headed a delegation to Bo District in the Republic of Sierra Leone where the Gola Forest Landscape Forum was held.

10.3 Engagements of the Office of the National Peace Ambassador

For the period under review, the Office of the National Peace Ambassador participated in workshops and training organized by sector partners in peace, youth, development, and social cohesion. Some of the engagements are as follows: Formal launch of OKADA MOTTO Liberia- a platform that aims to change the nation’s transportation sector by providing safe, accessible, and professional motorcycle and tricycle services. ONPA regularly engages motorcyclists to raise awareness on the prevention of violent conflict and protests. The Office of the Peace Ambassador and the Peacebuilding Office of Liberia embarked on a 19-day field trip in four electoral districts (Bassa, Lofa, Bong, and Grand Gedeh). These districts, according to the assessment that was conducted by the Peacebuilding Office, show that the residents in these counties are divided. There are several factors contributing to the division. Key among the factors are politics, tribal and land disputes. Through the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the National Peace Ambassador of the Republic of Liberia and the senior management of the Peacebuilding Office visited the hot conflict zones as per the assessments. The trip to Grand Gedeh, Lofa, Bassa, and Gbarnga brought together local stakeholders and politicians in the district to resolve the issues contributing to political tension among the people.

10.4. Initiatives undertaken towards Assess to Social Cohesion and Resilience

The Liberia Peacebuilding Office (PBO) was established for the coordination, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of the Government of Liberia and its partners' peacebuilding and reconciliation initiatives. The PBO is also responsible for developing policies, programs, and strategies related to peace and reconciliation as well as for effective communication, coherence, and coordination between national and international actors involved in peacebuilding and reconciliation activities in Liberia.

Below are the different donor's projects implemented in quarter 1 of 2025:

i. Strengthen Liberia Peacebuilding Office (PBO) across the Country:

Provided salary and administrative support to the PBO to include stipend for sixty (60) Early Warning and Early Response Reporters in all fifteen counties.

ii. Improved Partnership with the UNDP:

The Peacebuilding, Reconciliation and Social Cohesion Project conducted follow-up Peace and Reconciliation Dialogues in four Counties (Grand Bassa, Grand Gedeh, Bong and Lofa Counties) and targeted over 200 participants in the four counties.

iii. Capacity Building for PBO Staff and Partners:

Aimed at improving staff knowledge and skills on mediation and conflict transformation looking at cross-cutting issues involving different partners.

10.5 Strengthening community and concession relations

The National Concessions Conflicts Resolution Office (NCCRO) conducted community mediation dialogue in Sinoe and Gbarpolu Counties and targeted community members from conflict-prone communities aimed at addressing community grievances with Golden Veroleum Liberia, and Hummingbird Resources Liberia concession areas and Bao Chico Resources Liberia Limited.

Below are key achievements of the NCCRO and as follows:

i. **Facilitated Community Engagement Meetings between GVL and the Tartweh Darpo Chiefdom**:

Conducted one major community mediation dialogue in Sinoe County targeting 60 participants from each directly affected community. The targeted participants represented women, youth, elderly, traditional and vulnerable groups. NCCRO in February 2025 took several steps to mediate a conflict between residents of Tartweh -Drapoh Chiefdom and Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL) over alleged breach of a 2014 MOU. The dispute led to protests which disrupted GVL operations. The MOU signed in 2014 between GVL, and the Tartweh-Drapoh Chiefdom granted the company access to several development projects, including construction of bridges, hand pumps, schools, church, and roads, as well as prioritizing the employment of qualified citizens to hold managerial positions. According to the aggrieved community members and their leadership, GVL failed to honor this commitment especially failing to provide high- income jobs for its citizens. Due to consistent community confrontation, GVL and in retaliation, reportedly disconnected electricity from camps which elevated the tensions further.

ii. **Facilitated 3-day fresher training for Concessions Conflicts Monitoring Officer:**

The aim of the fresher training is to set the stage for a discussion on how to come to terms with the lack of consensus and differences in interpretation of these concepts when working with concessions companies and project affected communities.

iii. **Facilitated Mediation Meeting between Hummingbird Resources Liberia and the Jaedae Development Committee**:

Key stakeholders, such as women, youth, elderly, and other vulnerable groups were empowered to ensure better decision-making and smooth social cohesion between the company and the community. Hummingbird Resources Liberia has failed in providing its corporate social responsibility with the Project' affected Communities in Sinoe County.

iv. **Facilitated Community Engagement Meetings in 9 out of 32 communities in Gbarpolu County**:

These approaches allowed us to better identify key community issues by encouraging the fullest participation of women, youth, elders and marginalized groups in the concession areas of Bao Chico Resources Liberia.

11:0 CUSTOMARY MARRIAGE SERVICES

The Ministry of Internal Affairs is statutorily in charge of issuing licenses/certificates related to Customary or Traditional Marriages and Divorces. During the first quarter, the Ministry also introduced issuance of certificates for Bachelors and Spinsters. The below matrix shows the statistics of marriages, divorces, bachelors and spinsters.

Month	Quantity of Marriage	Quantity of Divorce	MIA Bachelor & Spinster Quantity
January	32	7	29
February	18	8	18
March	16	4	16
Total	**66**	**19**	**63**

12.0. COUNTY GOVERNMENT UPDATES:

12.1: Lofa County

This first quarter report provides gains made by the local authorities of Lofa County covering the period January to March 2025. It outlined key results accomplished and layout challenges that availed themselves during this period, as well as provides recommendation to the next plan of action.

i. Incidents and actions taken:

The County Administration started 2025 with stress as on the New Year eve, it was reported that a lady in her 40s was found dead in Duogomai Town, Voinjama District. National security and local authorities of Lofa County made a swift response and alleged perpetrators were immediately arrested and taken to Voinjama for further probing. One of the alleged perpetrators, Moisemah Yarkpawolo, allegedly committed suicide in the police cell on January 6, 2025. This led to citizens staging protests through roadblocks and burning down the Magisterial Court Building in John's Town, the headquarters of Duogomai Town Community. Moreover, on January 25, 2025 in the Korlwelene community Voinjama City, a girl who was believed to be 8 years old was found dead. It was alleged that she was murdered by ritualists. The police along with the Lofa County local

authorities promptly arrested Musu Patricia Kanneh along with others who were alleged to be connected to death. Through the police findings and negotiation with the family, the deceased has been buried.

ii. Land Dispute Resolution:

There was a land dispute between some residents of Mama-Dukuly Village of Quardu-Gboni District and Laborosu Town of Voinjama District. The two district commissioners of Voinjama district David Mawolo and Losene Dukuly of Quardu-Gboni District alerted the superintendent about the situation. Consequently, on February 27, 2025, Hon. J. Lavelah Massaquoi, Superintendent of Lofa, constituted a delegation comprising the Lofa County Police Commander Tarnue Kekula, Voinjama District Commissioners Hon. David Mawolo and Hon. Losene Dukuly, Quardu-Gboni District Commissioner who made a trip to the disputed land. The delegation headed by the Superintendent investigated the case and based on the findings, they were able to resolve the situation and the residents of the two disputed towns are now happily living.

iii. County Development Fund (CDF):

Commissioners were asked to work with their district authorities to identify projects within the estimated cost of Six Thousand United States Dollars (US$6000.00); the amount representing each administrative districts' share of the 2024 County Development Fund (CDF). The rationale is to ensure that district authorities, especially the commissioners, take full responsibility and become active decision makers especially by allowing citizens to actively get involved in development decision making processes of their district as required by the LGA 2018.

iv. Disaster Situation:

On February 20, 2025, at about 7:45 PM, heavy storm wind blew and it was accompanied by a heavy rainfall in Voinjama City which lasted for over 45 minutes. At the end of both the storm and the rain, we were informed by private homes and public institutions including the Lofa County University and Voinjama Multilateral High School that some of the buildings in the compounds were de-roofed by the storm.

Figure 2.5.Infrastructural Damages from disaster caused by storm.

v. Sports:

During the reporting period, Lofa County Won the National County Sports Meet as champions of the Male and Basketball Categories, respectively. To adequately prepare for the next phase, district level games are ongoing. The county commits to ensure district commissioners and other authorities take charge in building district sporting programs. The objective is to localize sporting activities, improve youth sporting skills, and involve citizens in sporting decision making.

12.2 Rivercess County

What is today known as "Rivercess County" underwent many years of political and Territorial Metamorphosis dating back in the 1490s as a commercial site when Portuguese traders visited the area. Rivercess came under Central Government's attention in 1918 when the area was declared a District under Grand Bassa County; previously a commonwealth District before becoming District #5, commonly known as Timbo District, but later divided into two (2) Parts "Number Five "A", comprising present day Timbo and Yarnee Districts, and Number 5 "B" comprising Present day Central Rivercess and Monweh Districts. The landscape by then started from the New Cess River to the Sanquain River with its capital being at Timbo City (Present Day Timbo Beach). The area

later became Territory in 1955 and gradually became a County in early 1985 under the leadership of Head of State Samuel Kanyon Doe making the county the 12th County of Liberia. The County is approximately 4,300 Square Miles and borders Grand Bassa County to the West, Nimba to the Northwest, Grand Gedeh to the Northeast, Sinoe County to the East and the Atlantic Ocean in the South. Rivercess has two Electoral Districts, four Statutory Districts, eight Administrative Districts, six Townships, seventeen Chiefdoms, one City, six Health Districts, and five Education Districts. LISGIS 2022 National Housing and Population Census puts the county's population at 98,375.

Programs and Achievements of the first Quarter 2025:

- ✓ Completed Fiscal Year 2024 CDF Projects Bid Process
- ✓ Toured and held Town Hall Meetings in the Eight (8) Administrative Districts of RiverCess County
- ✓ Hosted Two (2) MACs Coordination Meetings with a minimum of 17 MACs attending each meeting
- ✓ Secured two (2) Mobile Network Boosters from Orange Liberia
- ✓ Projects Assessments & Evaluation
- ✓ Secured Star link Router Package internet connectivity for ease of communication and research.

Figure 2.6.Starlink Internet Booster

Figure 2.7.Installed Starlink Satellite Panel on Administration Building Annex

Figure 2.8.Sup. Zahnwhea and Senior County Officials during County Assessment Tour

Challenges

- Low understanding of local government officials TORs and chain of command.
- Deplorable roads and bridges networks connecting various districts for ease of traveling condition and time.
- Lack of earth moving equipment for routine roads and bridges maintenance.

12.3 River Gee County

Created in 2001 as the 14th County, Rivergee is located in the Southeastern part of Liberia. Its bordering counties are Grand Gedeh, Maryland, Grand Kru and Sinoe. On the east of the River Gee County is the Republic of Cote D'ivoire. Rivergee has a population of 124,563.

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER

During the first Quarter 2025, River Gee County Administration was able to achieved the following planned activities:

No.	Item Description	Quantity	Location	Comment
1.	Purchase of building materials	1 Unit	Fish Town City	Assorted building materials was procured for the renovation of the County Administration & Superintendent Residence in Fish Town city. Renovation of the County Administrative Building and Superintendent Residence have been completed.
2.	Purchase of Furniture & Fixtures	Assorted	Fish Town City	Assorted furniture and fixtures was procured for the furnishing of County Administrative Building & Superintendent Residence in Fish Town city. County Administrative Building and Superintendent Residence have been furnished.
3.	Purchase of Transport Equipment (Motorbikes)	5 units	Fish Town City	the procurement has been completed. Senior Staff in the office of the County Superintendent administrative capacity have been increased.

In addition to the above achievements, River Gee County Administration was able to calm a major tribal conflict that escalated on March 17, 2025 between the people of Glarro District and the people of Kiteabo Chiefdom, Sarbo District. In this tribal dispute, three persons lost their lives while another is missing and feared dead. During the hostilities, one of the three dead was the Late Mr. Eric Nyenpan of Kiteabo Chiefdom who was shot while escaping from the Glarro attackers at the Qua-yo-gee Village, located in Kiteabo Chiefdom, Sarbo District. The other two dead were the Late Mr. Aaron Teah and the Late Sabastian Saylee, both from Glarro District. They were shot while escaping from the Kiteabo Revenge attackers at the Vasco Teah Village, located in Sackor Clan, Plubia Chiefdom, Glarro District.

12.4. Maryland County

The County is located in southeastern Liberia. The capital is Harper City and Pleebo the commercial hub of the County. It is bordered by Grand Kru County in the west and River Gee County in the North. The eastern part of the County is bordered by the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire separated by the Cavalla River. Maryland has a population of 172,587 **(LISGIS, 2022).** Maryland has nine (9) Administrative Districts, 3 Statutory Districts, 19 Chiefdoms, 42 Clans, 126 Towns, 58 Townships and 4 Cities. Honorable Henry Cole serves as the County Superintendent.

Asset Management

During the first quarter of the year, the County procured and distributed 6 computers, 6 printers and 2 motorbikes for County senior staff, District Superintendents and Commissioners. The Asset Management list was prepared and signed by each recipient. The list was shared with the County GSA Coordinator for coding and monitoring.

REVENUE STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2025				
DATE	STATUS	EXPLANATION	LBR$	US$
January 1, 2024	CDF	Balace Brought Forward	110,000.00	274.64
December 9, 2024	CDF	CDF for 2024 received from MFDP	36,245,825.00	-
TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE FOR THE PERIOD			36,355,825.00	274.64
LESS: EXPENTURE FOR THE PERIOD			- 34,291,994.40	- 250.00
BALANCE AS OF MARCH 31, 2025			2,063,830.60	24.64

Karluway District Superintendent Residence

Under the County Development funds (CDF), the Karluway District Superintendent Residence in Karloken, Karluway Statutory District was completed. The building contains 3 bedrooms, 1 kitchen, front & back pporches, and a living room.

The building will host the District Superintendent and visiting guests of the District.

Figure 2.9.Karluway District Superintendent

Additionally, six (6) other projects are ongoing and being monitored by the office of the County Development officer, and payments are being made towards these projects.

NO.	Project	PAYEE/VENDOR	REMARK
1	Construction of Gbloken Primary School in Pleebo/Sodoken Statutory District.	Morning Star Marketing Inc.	Roofing completed
2	Cavalla Teachers residence in Harper District.	Tuwes Incorporated	Roofing completed
3	Karluway Statutory Supt. Residence	Morning Star Marketing Inc.	Completed
4	Renovation of the Harper Central Prison in Harper.	Gabmark Construction Company	Completed
5	Renovation of the Harper Administration Building.	Madama Star Corporation	Completed
6	Construction of Glofaken City Hall in Barrobo Statutory District.	Madama Star Corporation	Foundation level

The Liberia Aviation Authority (LAA) funded the major renovation of the Alexander Tubman Airport in Harper City.

Figure 3.0. Photo from the Renovation work at the Alexander Tubman Airport- Harper City

Donations from USA

In March, 49 mattresses were donated to Harper Central by Marylanders for Progress in the United States of America (USA). These mattresses were made available to the Harper central prison.

Construction of a Judicial Complex

In January, the Judiciary Branch of Government conducted the groundbreaking for the construction of a Judiciary complex in Maryland County.

Figure 3.1. Ground Breaking Ceremony for Judicial

CONSTRUCTION OF A ONE BORDER POST AND BRIDGE OVER THE CAVALLA RIVER:

Construction works for a bridge over the Cavalla River linking Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire commenced. The SHAANXI CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING GROUP OF COMPANY is responsible for the bridge along with a one Border Post between Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire.

MARYLAND COUNTY SERVICE CENTER:

Under this quarter, the County Service Center rendered the following services:

- Fifty-nine (59) services rendered to the public; 43 males and 16 females

i. Revenue generated:

Figure 3.2. Ongoing Bridge Project linking Liberia and Cote

The service center generated One Hundred and Twenty Thousand, Four Hundred Liberian Dollars **($120,400.00)** plus Five Hundred Seventy United States Dollars **($570.00).**

12.5: Bong County:

The first quarter of Fiscal Year 2025 started as an extension to the Fiscal Year 2024. This is because the projects that were initiated have continued to the final stages. This led to the below activities planned:

- Continuous monitoring and supervision of the ongoing projects
- Planning and subsequent implementation of District projects
- Continuous stakeholder's engagement
- Draft plan of the Superintendent District Tour

ACTIVITIES /ACHIEVEMENTS SUMMARY FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF FISCAL YEAR 2025 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

i. Dedication of Superintendent's Compound, subsequent foundation and excavation for the Administrative Complex:

The Superintendent Compound was dedicated on February 15, 2025. The completed works included: clearing the Old Circuit Court for the Administrative Complex, constructing security booths, installing steel-rails, creating pathways for the physically challenged Bong County Officials, and completing the full renovation of the building. Other ongoing works included modifying the palava hut, and fence completion. The Administrative Complex Project is expected to be finally completed by May 16, 2025.

Figure 3.3. Superintendent Compound at the time of its dedication

Figure 3.4.Foundation for the Administrative Complex

Figure 3.5. Excavation for the Administrative Complex

ii. Status of The Fence Around The Administrative Compound & Renovation Of The Administrative Hall:

Fencing of the Administrative Building is currently ongoing, with significant work including electrification, railing placement, security booth construction, etc.

Figure 3.6. Administrative Compound Fencing Project

The new look of the Administrative Hall and the Flagpoles

Additionally, during the First Quarter, the renovation works on the Administrative Hall was completed. This includes all painting works, septic tank construction and installation of ACU & AC, installation of water closet, installation of glass doors, wooden doors, PVC drainpipes, ceiling and window work.

iii. Renovation of The David Kuyon Stadium:

With approval of the County Council, the County Administration renovated the Sport Stadium in preparation to host one of the Zones of the 2024/2025 National County Sports with an amount of Ninety-Five Thousand United States Dollars ($95, 000.00USD).

The renovation works included the following:

- **Electrical Rewiring**—the entire stadium electrical system was upgraded to meet modern standards.
- **Plumbing Improvements** – New bathrooms were constructed, and existing facilities were renovated, including the installation of a new water distribution system.
- **Aesthetic Enhancements** ---- The stadium was fully repainted, and two hundred (200) new bucket seats were installed, improving spectator comfort.

New outlook of the David Kuyon Stadium

- **Pitch Re-fencing** ---- Part of the playing pitch was fenced, and a section of the stadium was covered to enhance safety and aesthetics.

ATTENDING TO COUNTY LIABILITIES AND SUPPORT TO COUNTY INSTITUTIONS:

With approval of the County Council, the Administration started to attend to some of the liabilities that were inherited. In so doing, the total amount of Four Million, Twenty Thousand, Two Hundred and Sixty-Six Dollars, Twenty Cents Liberian Dollars **($4,920,266.20LRD**) and Forty-Four Thousand, Three Hundred and Seven One Dollars, Sixty-Six Cents United States Dollars **($44,371.66USD**) was given to Six (6) contractors in order to continue projects that was not completed during the past Administration. The intent is for the contractors to have the projects completed for the benefit of our people.

In the same vein, the Administration also gave financial support to Five (5) County based Civil Society Institutions in the tone of Two Million Eight Hundred Ninety-Nine Thousand One Hundred Liberia Dollars **($2, 899,100.00LRD**) and Twenty Thousand Three Hundred United States Dollars (**20,300.00USD**). The Institutions are as follows:

- The Bong County Health Team
- Bong County Disable Organization
- Gbarnga Prison Compound
- The Bong County Court
- The Bong Students Union

The Administration believes that financially supporting these County-based Civil Society Institutions will enhance the capacity building process of the citizens and also make them benefit and feel a part of the County budget.

Countywide Assessment Tour:

The tour was conducted to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of all priorities and also stalled and uncompleted projects. A 5-day Tour started on February 17, 2025 and concluded on February 22, 2025. Achievements: Twenty-nine (29) projects were monitored, assessed, and evaluated,

including 14 that were incomplete and 15 resolute. As of now, technical specifications for all resolute district projects have been submitted to PPCC for approval.

Status of the district agriculture (beans) project:

During the period under review, the County initiated a pilot project titled: The Beans and Tiger Nut Project- which signifies the start of the agricultural component of the agenda in the county. In this, the fourteen (14) districts were given 25 kg of beans and 3kg of tiger nuts to kick start the process. This project aims to strengthen local leaders and community members in food security and support the County Administration vision for Sustainable Agriculture as it aligns with the Government's ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID).

Reports from the districts on project indicate that the project did not meet the desired outcome because of the following:

- The project started at the wrong season in the country
- There were limited resources to properly manage the project in the fourteen (14) districts
- The agriculture department responsible for monitoring the project was not equip with the techniques needed to manage the project.

Notwithstanding, six (6) Commissioners were able to manage their share of the beans. Those Commissioners have done their first harvest, and they are planning to start the second farming that will yield more harvest.

PLANNING THE COUNTY DISTRICT TOUR:

Following the Second County Council Sitting, completion of the District Projects was a major part of the County Council Resolution when each Administrative District was allotted Fifty Thousand United States Dollars **($50,000.00USD**). To date, the Procurement Plan along with the technical specifications of these projects have been sent to the PPCC and approved and the bidding process is ongoing. This amount per District is expected to have a significant effect on the unfinished projects in terms of improvement. To some extent, this amount is also expected to complete many of the unfinished projects.

- On the other hand, the County Council approved the Superintendent's District Tour which is expected to start in the third (3rd) week of April 2025 starting in Kokoyah Statutory District.

Infrastructural Development in Bong through Stakeholders:

a. Construction of a Concrete Bridge between Panta and Zota Districts

On February 28, 2025, the County Administration represented by the Superintendent, County Development Officer, Districts Commissioner for Panta and Zota Districts along with the Minister of Public Works broke ground for the construction of a 26.4m/24.4m depth concrete bridge between Foequelleh (Panta District) and Wolapulu Clan (Zota District) which is expected to withstand the weight of 100 tons. This project is being implemented by Wind Wide Infrastructure Company. The bridge is a big boost to the people of Bong County, especially for water transport.

Foundation works on the bridge between Foequelleh

(Patna District) and Wolapulu Clan (Zota District)

Additionally, technical assessment has also been done on the Crossing Point between Liberia and Guinea for possibly a bridge to be constructed. It will also create a business hub in the Central Region of Liberia because this route has shorter access to the Republic of Guinea than that of Ganta, Nimba County.

b. Community Self-Help Projects

To help support the development in the County, the Citizens of Dainenai Town in Zota District initiated and turned over a self-help 10 miles' Feeder Road to the County Authority.

Meanwhile, another prominent citizen named Pastor James Paye is rehabilitating a bridge and the road leading to Paylalowah Town in Jorquelleh #1 District. The road is expected to open economic access to about sixteen (16) communities.

CHALLENGES:

- Insufficient Technical Staffs to enhance the project implementation capacity of the County Development Office
- Bad roads network in all the 14 Administrative Districts is a serious concern
- Delay in the placement on the Government payroll for some of the appointed Commissioners is a serious challenge for their performance.
- MIA County Staffs yet to be placed on Government payroll needs serious attention
- The County is large, and security remains a serious challenge. Currently, most Districts do not have police presence.

12.6: Grand Bassa County

Grand Bassa is one of the three founding counties of Liberia. The County has a border with Margibi, Rivercess and Bong Counties. It is bordered to the south by the Atlantic Ocean. The county has the second largest seaport next to the Port of Monrovia and a potential zone for economic growth and development. Buchanan is the County Capital city as well as the largest city in the county. Honorable Kayou Johnson serves as the County Superintendent.

His Excellency Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr. appointed Honorable Karyou Johnson during the first reporting period following the tragic demise of Superintendent Honorable Julia Bondo in late 2024.

The following constitute a summary of projects and activities during the first Quarter of 2025.

The County reactivated and strengthened its County Development Steering Committee (CDSC) Meeting. The meeting was held to raise awareness about the importance of the CDSC meeting as it relates to enhancing county coordination, monitoring, reporting and addressing development challenges.

The County embarked on the ten (10) projects infrastructure as shown in the below matrix:

Project title:	**Bokay Town Market completion**		
Project Budget	40,023.68USD	Source of income: CDF/GOL	
Implementing period	Six (6) months	Start date	End date
		Jan-25	Jul-26
Geographic location (s)	Bokay Town, District One, Grand Bassa County		

Project title:	**Compound One Football Field Fencing completion**		
Project Budget	42,768.00USD	Source of income: CDF/GOL	
Implementing period	Six (6) months	Start date	End date
		Jan-25	Jun-25
Geographic location (s)	Compound One, District One, Grand Bassa County		

Project title:	**Lloydsville Administration Building completion**		
Project Budget	39,734.60USD	Source of income: CDF/GOL	
Implementing period	Six (6) months	Start date	End date
		Jan-25	Jun-25
Geographic location (s)	Lloydsville Township, District One, Grand Bassa County		

Project title:	**Harmonsville Administration Building completion**		
Project Budget	39,666.64USD	Source of income: CDF/GOL	
Implementing period	Six (6) months	Start date	End date
		Jan-25	Jun-25
Geographic location	Harmonsville, Grand Bassa County		

Project title:	**Buchanan District Hall completion**		
Project Budget	37,149.87USD	Source of income: CDF/GOL	
Implementing period	Six (6) months	Start date	End date
		Jan-25	Jun-25
Geographic location	Buchanan City, Grand Bassa County		

Project title:	**Wayzohn City Hall completion**		
Project Budget	43,611.00USD	Source of income: CDF/GOL	
Implementing period	Six (6) months	Start date	End date
		Jan-25	Jun-25
Geographic location (s)	Wayzhon City, Grand Bassa County		

Project title:	**Nyonben Town Commissioner Residence completion**		
Project Budget	6,882.40USD	Source of income: CDF/GOL	
Implementing period	Six (6) months	Start date	End date
		Jan-25	Jun-25
Geographic location (s)	Nyonben Town, Grand Bassa County		

Project title:	**Baa Bridge Completion**		
Project Budget	115,000.00USD	Source of income: CDF/GOL	
Implementing period	Nine (9) months	Start date	End date
		Jan-25	Sept. 2025
Geographic location (s)	Baa Town, St. John River City, Grand Bassa County		

ONGOING ADMINISTRATION BUINDING, Lloydsville-ED1

Ongoing City Hall completion, Wayzohn City ED-4

ONGOING BOKAY TOWN MARKET PROJECT, ED-1

Football Field fencing project – Compound One -ED1

12.7: Montserrado County

During the period under review, the County Administration updated employee sign-in records to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. The County has developed a comprehensive procurement plan for the fiscal year 2025.

Conflict Resolution: The county administration embarked on conflicting resolution in the various localities to included boundary disputes in the Todee Statutory District, leadership crisis in the Cycle Yard community, New Georgia Township, disagreements in Mount Coffee Township, concerns involving the Marquoi Clan, and the resolution of the leadership crisis in Crozerville.

Additionally at the sub-county level, there are ongoing zoning, restructuring of the Township Councils and revision of Ordinances in the townships of Harrisburg, Crozierville, Kingsville, Tubmanville, Tolberta, Mount Coffee, Louisiana, White Plains, Virginia, Cheesemanburg, Royesville and Millsburg amongst others.

In order to address the GSM connectivity challenge, the County administration signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Orange GSM for the construction of a cell tower in Bentol. Once completed, this project will enhance communication and provide internet connectivity to support the efficient operation of the county's administrative hub including job opportunities for inhabitants of Bentol City.

In Careysburg Statutory District, there were a series of sanitation awareness campaigns and road clearing initiatives across the thirty-one towns of the Gomoshu Clan.

Challenges

The implementation of the Local Government Act of 2018 aims to empower local communities to take ownership and drive development across the county. However, Montserrado County continues to face challenges related to resource mobilization, budget allocations, and poor coordination across the sector. The key challenges include:

a. Limited resources and delays in receiving budgetary allocations to support local structures.
b. Insufficient manpower to support service delivery in townships and cities.
c. Incomplete implementation of the Local Government Act of 2018.
d. Delays from the central government in providing budgetary support to county administrations.

12.8: Gbarpolu County

Gbarpolu is Liberia's 15th County. It is located in northwestern Liberia, bordered by Sierra Leone to the west. It was established in 2001, carved out of parts of Lofa and Bomi counties. Its capital city is Bopolu. Gbarpolu has a largely rural population, with most residents relying on agriculture, mining, and hunting for livelihood.

The county is known for its lush forests, mountainous terrain, and rich natural resources, including gold, diamonds, iron ore and timber. Ethnic groups like the Gola, Belle, Kpelle, Lorma and Mandingo are prevalent here, and traditional culture is strong, with many villages observing local customs and practices.

Access to healthcare, education, and infrastructure is limited, although development efforts are ongoing. Gbarpolu also has notable biodiversity, with forests that support various wildlife species and are part of Liberia's environmental conservation areas.

Achievement for first Quarter, 2025

1. Assessment of unfinished projects was successfully carried on
2. Fuel support to the Emirates Hospital in the tune of USD20,000.00 was delivered to the Hospital
3. 40% of budgetary allotment to unfinished projects inherited from the previous administration was approved by the County Council.

12.9: Margibi County

Margibi County was established in 1984 created from parts of Montserrado and Grand Bassa counties. The county evolved from the combination of Marshall and Gibi territories, forming "MARGIBI". The County was traditionally inhabited by the Bassa tribe, while the Kpelleh also resided in the region as well, especially the Upper part of the County. Margibi County has an area of 1010 square miles and a population of over 304,946 as per the 2022 Census, making it the fifth most populated county in Liberia.

Pavement of Kakata Streets: The City of Kakata is set to benefit from 8.7 km of road pavement by the government through the Ministry of Public Works (MPW). The final assessment is being carried out by the Local Government Authority and the Ministry of Public Works, with mapping carried out and completed.

The Rebuilding of C.H. Rennie Hospital: On February 7, 2025, the Ministry of Health visited the designated site of the new 85-bedroom hospital building which has a landscape of 15 acres. The cost of this new hospital will be 3.2 million and will be founded by the Government of Liberia.

Relocation of County Administration Building: During the first Quarter, the County Administration finally succeeded in securing an agreement with the County Caucus, the County Council and Senior Staff of the administration for the relocation of the Administrative Offices of the County to one of the county's funded projects, a building that the county has invested more than two million United States Dollars from our County Development Funds and has been standing in ruin for more than ten years, to be renovated and use for the operation of the County Administration, line ministries and agencies as well as partners if necessary. The cost of the renovation is estimated around one hundred and sixty thousand United States Dollars. Plans are underway for the success of this development and name, or title will be disclosed at the appropriate time.

CHALLENGES

During the period under review, the County administration faced the following challenges:

➢ The Lack of Vehicle and essential office supplies for used by the County Local Administration, thereby causing a major hindrance in the operations of the county offices; and

➢ Limited budget allocations have mired the expansion of some programs and decelerated the implementation of some projects.

➢ many rural areas lack proper and pliable roads, making it difficult to access these areas within the County exacerbated by the seasonal rainfall.

12.10: Grand Kru County

Established in 1984, Grand Kru County is situated in the southeastern region of Liberia. It has eight (8) statutory districts, twenty (20) administrative districts, as well as thirty-two (32) rural cities. The area of the county measures 1,504 square miles and has a total population of 109,342 (reference LISGIS 2022 Report). Major sources of livelihood are fishing, agriculture/farming, hunting, mining and eco-tourism. The county is blessed with untapped natural resources that include gold and diamond, as well as vast forest.

Citizens Mobilization Meeting for the Laying Out of Barclayville City

Fiscal Management: During the period under review, Grand Kru County received its share of the County Development Funds in the tune of US$186,000 in the equivalent of L$34,410,000 (Thirty-four Million Four Hundred Ten Thousand Liberian Dollars) Appropriation expenditure as approved by the County Council is ongoing. It is important to note that Grand Kru is one of the counties, if not the only country that has no Social Development Fund. This situation is impeding the progress of developing the county. As a result, our achievement in terms of infrastructure is limited. We therefore kindly request that the Government, through the Ministries of Finance & Development Planning and Internal Affairs remit the fair share of the Forest Management Funds, as budgeted in the National Budget FY 2024/2025.

i. Land & Tribal Disputes:

Land in Grand Kru with specific reference to traditional land is family heritage. However, boundary harmonization to indicate proper ownership of land in Grand Kru is becoming a serious impediment. During the period under review, there were a number of land disputes that resulted in life threatening situations. One occasion of the internal land dispute, citizens from two Statutory Districts (Kawalaken in Trehn and Geneken in Wadebo) got involved into a fist fight resulting in the shooting of two citizens. Fortunately, with the involvement of the County Authority and the Joint Security, calm was restored in the two communities.

The matrix below indicates disputes that were successfully handled through dialogue.

No.	Description	Community	District	Status
1	Internal land dispute	Kawalaken and Geneken	Trehn and Wedabo	Mediation conducted and dispute settled
2	Internal land dispute	Topoh and Big Suehn	Barclayville	Mediation ongoing
3	Internal Dispute	Chewriken & Tarken	Buah	Mediation conducted and dispute settled
4	External Dispute	Maryland & Grand Kru	Wlowien & Behwan	Mediation ongoing but there is a need for the involvement of central Government through the Liberian Land Authority
5	Tribal Dispute	Sasstown	Jrao	In this dispute, traditional chiefs and some community members performed trial by ordeal for their allege involvement in witch activities. Considering the lack of sufficient evidence, the County Administration carried out dialogue amongst the two parties and the case was settled.

Health: Additionally, there were 125 volunteer health workers placed on payroll. Efforts have been made by the County Health Officer (CHO) with support from the County Administration, which up to date has not been successful.

However, Grand Kru County is experiencing absence of health implementing partners in the county. We request that if we are to regain and improve the health delivery system of Liberia, with Grand Kru of no exception, the government should concentrate on partner mapping and evenly distribute partners in all counties. Reference the County Health Board Meeting conducted and based on the County Health Team report, allotments for some of our health centers have been inconstant and even delayed, thus creating a setback in the health care delivery system

ii. **Coordination between Central Government and Grand Kru County Administration**:

During the period under review, there were a number of visits aimed at strengthening the coordination between the Central Government and County Administration. Among these

coordination were the visit of senior MIA staffs from Monrovia to assess and support the Grand Kru County Service Center, the joint delegation of Central Government with representation from the Ministries of Health, Internal Affairs, Finance & Development Planning, along with the German Ambassador and team to dedicate the fully renovated Rally Time Hospital and construction of a duplex staff quarter sponsored by the German Government. Also visiting the county were a team of senior staff of the MFDP, IAA, and MIA to have a dialogue with citizens and stakeholders for the selection of counties to benefit from the establishment of County Treasury. The collaboration also included a team from the Rural Renewable Energy Agency (RREA) to support the construction of a solar grid for Barclayville City.

iii. **Illicit Mining**:

There are huge deposits of minerals in Grand Kru County, however, the County continues to experience huge elicit mining activities which has a negative impact on the county in terms of revenue generation and destruction of the ecosystem. There is little effort by the Ministry of Mines & Energy to control the illicit mining activities. It is surprising to note that the Ministry of Mines & Energy continues to give licenses to miners without any protective measures for the environment. In some instances, environmental pollution, especially on creeks and rivers along with the abandoned open pitch has resulted in the death of some of our citizens, especially children. Additionally, school enrollment has dropped in most of the communities due to the involvement of the youthful population in mining activities, while drugs and substance abuse are on the increase amongst the youth in those mining communities. Currently, we are collaborating with the Joint Security and the Ministry of Mines & Energy sub office in the county to mitigate and safeguard the resources and avoid environmental damage. See Photo Blow

iv. Ministry of Education:

For the reporting period, we observed major improvement in the educational system to include the following:

- Elevating the structures of almost all high schools in the county, a project which is sponsored by the World Bank.
- The establishment of a digital laboratory with the provision of twenty (20) pieces of computers and accessories per high school.
- Provision of educational materials in all schools across the county.
- Subsidy from the County Authority through the CDF to support the educational system.

v. **Security**:

Limited security forces in the county are giving rise to some communities living in fear. Currently, The Liberia national Police assigned in the county lacks logistics and correction facilities, especially for juveniles.

With the remoteness of some of our districts, including the multiple internal and external land disputes, it is imperative to increase the strength of the security and to provide some logistics. As part of this initiative, the county purchased two motorbikes with funding from the CDF to enhance the logistics capacity of the police.

vi. Grand Kru County Service Center:

As part of the Decentralization activities, Grand Kru County Service Center is fully operational. Additionally, the existence of the Service Center in dealing with a wide range of essential public services is serving as great relief to the citizens and residents. With strategic partnership and support from UNDP/USAID the Service Center is fully solarized and is becoming one of the gateways in generating income within the county. However, there are few bottom necks that need to be addressed:

- Lack of software for traditional marriage certificate
- Lack of software for Aliens Biometric Identification Card
- The absence of Business Registry and window for Ministry of Transport

❖ The lack of internet connectivity

vii. Concession:

(Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL): GVL is the only major concession company (oil palm) in Grand Kru County. With its operation restricted in one of the two (2) districts in Grand Kru, GVL is improving the livelihood of our citizens through employment opportunities and contributing to our infrastructure, road, health and educational sector. GVL has been supporting the working of the County Authority.

International Partners: Welt Hunger Hilfe (WHH), formally German Agro Action is working in improving the healthcare delivery system of Grand Kru County with the total renovation of the only referral hospital (Rally Time Hospital), the construction of two (2) duplex nurse quarters and the construction of a modern oxygen plant. Additionally, WHH is constructing the Domon Nimely Maternity Health Center to enable the facility to migrate from the current facility, in which a portion is constructed with a tank. During the period under review, WHH in collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Internal Affairs dedicated a newly renovated referral hospital (Rally Time) and two duplex nursing quarters. Under the sponsorship of the German Government. Please see the pictorial of WHH intervention.

viii. Infrastructure:

To improve the infrastructure development of the county, the county is completing some pending projects and has initiated the construction of some infrastructure as indicated in the below matrix

No.	Description	Qty.	Status	Source of Funding	Comment
1.	Grand Kru Youth Center	1	Ongoing	CDF	Completion stage
2.	Nrokwia Clinic	1	Ongoing	CDF	At 60%
3.	Construction of new hand pumps	10	Ongoing	CDF	Across the county
4.	Rehabilitation of hand pumps	16	Ongoing	CDF	Across the county
5.	Renovation of Barclayville City	1	Ongoing	CDF	In Barclayville
6	Renovation of the Superintendent compound	1	Ongoing	CDF	Barclayville
7.	Children playground	1	Pending	CDF	Barclayville
8	Construction of new City Hall	1	Pending	CDF	Barclayville

ix. Barclayville City Lay Out:

In an attempt to improve the capitol city of Grand Kru and to give face lift to the city, the County Administration in collaboration with the Barclayville City Council has commenced the process of laying out the city streets. This initiative is amongst the many projects that are being sponsored by the CDF.

Technicians at work in Barclayville City

x. CONSTRAINTS:

ROAD:

As part of the President's 100-day deliverables for the rehabilitation of roads, a 75 kilometer road (Barclayville-Pleebo) was selected to form part of the overall road rehabilitation in the country. However, the process of rehabilitating said road by a contractor (West Africa Construction Company known as SSF) hired by the government has become a nightmare. The contractor has

become very slow and has demonstrated their lack of capacity when it comes to the availability of equipment. In addition, major road leading from Grand Kru to Greenville, Sinoe County has become impossible to travel due to collapse of the major bridges **(the Chengbetee Bridge) between Grand Kru and Sinoe County** creating hardship for the citizens and business owners who are pressed against the wall to increase the prices of their goods and services. See photo attached (the bridge and the SSF defective machines)

Ongoing construction of the Chengbetee Bridge between Grand Kru and Sinoe County

xi. OTHER CONSTRAINTS ARE:

- Delay on the part of the government for the appointment of some local government officials
- Illicit mining activities resulting into environmental damage, low turnout in school enrollment, and increase in drugs and substance abuse amongst the youth
- Limited logistics in the county, most especially to carry out field activities for the office of the County Development Officer
- Limited manpower in the security apparatus, with specific reference to the police and the lack of logistics
- Lack of prison facilities in the county, especially a cell to accommodate juveniles
- High percentage of internal and external land disputes and the slow responses from the LLA for intervention
- The slow remittance of allotment for County Health Team by the Ministries of Health and Finance & Development Planning

- Interference of external security forces from neighboring counties creating tension amongst citizens and in a case, point resulting to shooting at a Ghanaian citizen.

12.11: Sinoe County:

The County has been relatively calm and over the last few months, the County Administration has prioritized the establishment of clearer roles and responsibilities for District Superintendents. During the period of the First Quarter, the Administration organized two interactive meetings with the District Superintendent aimed at explaining their terms of reference (TOR) with emphasis on preparation and submission of monthly activity reports.

CHALLENGES:

Despite all efforts to provide capacity building and technical assistance, there is little compliance with the timely submission of activity reports by other local authorities.

Most sub-county officials have failed to adhere to deadlines which undermine the collective efforts to enhance district performance and accountability.

Political Alignment is one of several factors affecting the district superintendents, making it difficult to respect deadlines and this is mainly due to political affiliation. Their allegiance to certain political groups or personalities have influenced their willingness to follow directives from the Superintendent's office and this has greatly hindered communication and effective governance.

SARPO NATIONAL PARK REQUIRES URGENT ATTENTION:

The Sarpo National Park, established as the first national park in our country and known for housing the second largest area of primary tropical rainforest in West Africa, is in a state of severe distress. This protected area is currently facing significant threats from illegal mining activities, primarily conducted by foreign nationals and local individuals seeking gold and diamonds.

Illegal mining activities are rampant within the park, leading to substantial destruction of its unique ecosystems. The Sarpo National Park, a critical component of our country's heritage and a vital asset for eco-tourism, is witnessing extensive degradation. The ongoing exploitation is not just damaging our natural resources but also threatening our wildlife species, many of which are fleeing to neighboring Ivory Coast in search of safety.

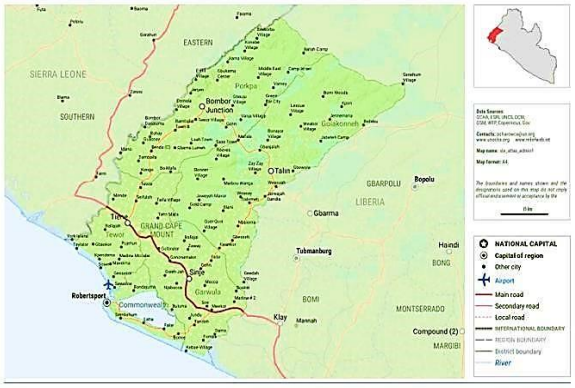
The heavy impact of destruction within the Sarpo National Park has been exacerbated since the past regime of former President George Weah. Despite previous attempts to address these issues, minimal progress has been made in curbing illegal activities within the park. The continuous neglect poses a significant risk to both our environment and the socio-economic benefits derived from eco-tourism.

Recommendation:

- ✓ Reinforce Communication-There is a need to periodically schedule follow-up meetings to reiterate the critical nature of their reporting responsibilities and this provide additional support and clarification that may help eliminate misunderstanding regarding their roles and responsibilities.
- ✓ Accountability Measures: There should be a structured follow-up process and potential consequences regarding failure to comply with deadlines.
- ✓ Capacity building of political neutrality-there is a need to offer training aimed at fostering political neutrality in the workplace, highlighting the importance of fulfilling their professional duties regardless of political affiliations.

12.12: Grand Cape Mount County:

Founded in 1856, Grand Cape Mount County is a northwestern region of Liberia. On its north is Gbarpolu County, Gbarpolu and Bomi Counties make up the eastern region. The County is



bordered on the west by the Republic of Sierra Leone, while on the south is the Atlantic Ocean. The county is notable for its diverse geography, including rainforests, mountains, rivers, and Atlantic beaches, particularly in Robertsport which serves as the capital and largest city in the county. Robertsport City is a major tourist destination because of its topography and suitability for surfing on the Atlantic Ocean along with the largest lake in Liberia called Lake

Piso. Economically, Grand Cape Mount is primarily dependent on agriculture, fishing, and small-scale mining, with rice, cassava, and rubber as principal crops. The county is rich in cultural heritage, with the Gola and Vai ethnic groups, whose customs add to the cultural depth of the region.

The county's population of 178,798 accounts for 3.3% of the population of the Liberia (LISGIS 2022 Census), thus making it the eighth most populous county in the country. The county comprises five administrative districts: Commonwealth, Garwular, Tewor, Porkpa, and Gola Konneh. There are three electoral Districts, one Statutory District, four (4) Administrative Districts, Seven (7) Townships, two cities, five (5), twenty-two (22) clans and twenty-seven (27) general towns.

PERSONNEL STATUS

i. Number of staff (active on payroll and workforce in the county and districts, etc.)

County	Authorized Position	Personnel On Payroll	Not On Payroll
Grand Cape Mount	234	144	90

In keeping with the implementation of sound fiscal reasonability, the new administration received a turnover note to have a clearer understanding of GCMC Financial statements, details of income, expenditures and balances.

Breakdown of all financial statement and account summary (LRD), expenditure and liabilities presented by the **past regime**. The opening balances for the period under review was two hundred twenty-six million eight two thousand five hundred Liberian dollars (226,082,500.00LD) as indicated in the financial statement we met on the books.

The opening Balance ---------- : LRD 226,500.00

Bank Charges ---------- : LRD4,305

Total Assets ---------- : LRD226,078,195

Total expenditure to date : LRD 225,887,195

Closing balance (May 2024) : LRD195,000

The below statement represents the county's balance sheet that was presented to us in March of 2024.

Assets & Liabilities:

Cash in Bank	**LRD 195,000,00**
CDF/SDF Due from GoL: Western Cluster SDF & CDF 2024	USD 1,700,000
Bea Mountain SDF currently deposited IB Bank Lib Limited	USD 1,600,000
Total current Assets in United States Dollars	USD 3,300,000
Total current Assets in Liberian Dollars	LRD 195,000

Key Achievements under our administration
In December 2024 and January 2025 received the following amounts:

1, County Service Center (CSC) Running Cost: Thirteen thousand three hundred thirty-three dollars (13, 333. 00 USD)

2. County Development Funds: One hundred eight six thousand six hundred seventy-six dollars (USD 186, 676.00)

3. Western Cluster Cape Mount Amounted to Seven hundred seventy thousand United States Dollars (USD 770,000.00)

Bea Mount Mining Company (BMMC) SDF and CDF funds to Grand Cape Mount County
The Bea Mount Mining Company (BMMC) started payment of its obligation in 2022 through an escrow account title: GCMC/ BMMC Development Fund. According to information gathered the then Senator, Cllr. Varney G. Sherman was one of the principal signatories along with some officials of BMMC, including former Superintendent Hon. Aaron B. Vincent.

The Money deposited in that account is in the tune of One Million Six Hundred Thousand (USD 1,600,000), however, the money was not expended due to some misunderstanding surrounding said amount deposited. Meanwhile, the County Administration has initiated conversations with other stakeholders for smooth transfer of the said amount into the county's account at the Central Bank.

Funds transferred by government and rate of expenditures and variances

Cash in Bank USD	471,423.43
Cash in Bank LRD	**206,236.34**
CDF/SDF Due from GOL: Western Cluster SDF & CDF 2025 USD	941,666.00
Bea Mountain SDF currently deposited IB Bank Lib Limited USD	1,600,000.00
Total current Assets in United States Dollars	3,013,089.43
Total current Assets in Liberian Dollars	206,236.34

ii. Infrastructure Development Project:

During the period under review, Grand Cape Mount County Administration initiated and implemented sixteen (16) infrastructure development projects in the various Districts of Grand Cape Mount County and 2 Non- infrastructure projects within our approved procurement plan for the period under consideration, as you'll see in the flow chart matrix.

GCMC official in a major planning meeting

Completion of the Annex of the Superintendent Compound and furbishing, as well as renovation of Sawu Community School, Construction of Diah Health Clinic and Tahn Presidential Compound- 100%, Construction of development projects (Infrastructures) in various Districts ongoing and all at 80 to 90% completion,

iii. County Meet Tournament 2024/2025

The County meet Tournament was officially launched in Robertsport City, Grand Cape Mount County in January 2025. This event marked an important milestone in promoting local sports talent and fostering community unity through sports. The tournament saw the participation of both male and female athletes across different age categories, with football, Basketball and Kickball being the featured sports.

H.E. Boakai takes the kickoff

The opening match was marked by a special and symbolic event: the President of the Republic of Liberia, His Excellency, and President's Joseph Nyumah Boakai.

iv. Challenges:

Coastal erosion, flooding, and geographic isolation of some areas due to poor roads or seasonal accessibility issues make it difficult to provide consistent services and develop certain sectors, such as tourism and agriculture. These environmental challenges also affect infrastructure and sanitation, particularly in Robertsport.

b. Poor resource management practices, such as payroll inaccuracies and delays in fund disbursement, can reduce efficiency and transparency. Problems with centralized fund management also contribute to a lack of accountability and slower project implementation.

c. Lack of Capacity for Effective Planning and Policy Implementation: Limited capacity to implement policies, such as the Local Government Act, and challenges with meeting legislative requirements reduce the county's ability to operate smoothly and plan strategically.

13.0 GENERAL CHALLENGES OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The period witnessed many challenges coupled with lessons to draw on for continued operations. These challenges are highlighted below to guide planning for 2025.

13.1: Operational challenges

There are no vehicles for presidential appointees, as well as for the general and other employees. The Minister inherited a vehicle donated by UNHCR for use by the previous Minister. Air conditions, fixtures and office furniture and equipment are either damaged or in fairly working condition.

County Service Centers are the first practical steps towards decentralization. A joint assessment report revealed the lack of operating equipment, software and operational funds. Late disbursements of allotments have undermined the effective operations of the county service centers. In addition, weak coordination coupled with signatory power based in Monrovia in addition to the challenges outlined above continues to affect efficient service deliveries.

The Ministry owes the African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) more than us$160,000 in arrears in annual fees for the last several years. Annual subscription is to the tune of US$10,000. AARDO provides technical training and education to member states like Liberia. It underscores the need for leaders of Asia and Africa to recognize the need for cooperation among the countries in the field of agriculture and rural development. Over the period the MIA suffered inadequate budgetary support for which meeting its obligation has been difficult. This has led to several challenges both at central and county levels. Limited trained personnel to run this critical Ministry is a serious challenge. This is indeed contributing to low productivity at the Central and the County levels.

Efforts by local authorities and NGOs aim at improving community relations, support sustainable development, and promote peaceful co-existence; especially in regions close to the border with Sierra Lone are underway. The area has strong traditional governance systems, and residents often resolve issues through local leaders and customary practices. However, there are untimely remittances of funding allotted for programs and projects in the counties. Additionally, lack of

logistic support is also a key factor undermining development efforts. Though road improvement is ongoing but road connectivity to major towns and villages, as well as rehabilitate major bridges remain challenge in some areas in the counties.

13.2: Policy Challenges

Long service employees retired in 2021 and those in 2024 have not received retirement benefits. This situation is creating motivational concerns for would-be or potential retirees.

There is a slow pace in the passage of the Bill seeking to establish the Ministry of Local Government, thus correspondingly delaying the establishment of local governments consistent with the Local Government Act of 2018.

13.3: Gaps in Technical Capacity Development

Relevant skills and knowledge in key disciplines required for the effective and efficient operations of the Ministry are low, especially for technical staff. This situation is potentially impacting efficient delivery at the technical level. Newly appointed county administrations are challenged by inadequate skills and knowledge in areas of local government, budgeting, research, reporting and data collection and analysis. Functional skills for effective management of the counties and municipalities are challenging. In addition, members of the County Councils, County Development Planning Units, as well as the National Council of Chiefs, are challenged by operational efficiency in terms of skills, office equipment and furniture.

13.4: Infrastructure:

County administrative offices and superintendents' residences are all in bad shape. City Halls in the counties also need repair and maintenance work.

13.5: Fragmentation of peace and reconciliation programs

Fragmented functionaries of peace-building programs, with emphasis on three units are more or like implementing the same functions in different spaces, which is undermining operational efficiency and created conditions for resource waste. For example, in existence at the Ministry are

the Liberia Peace Building Office, National Concession Conflicts Resolution Office and the Office of the National Peace Ambassador – all are concerned with conflict resolution matters. They are practically doing the same thing. To address the current fragmentation of peace and national reconciliation programs, the Ministry has embarked on public consultations and stakeholders' engagements on the establishment of an Independent National Commission on Peace and Reconciliation. Due to the limitation of budgetary allotment from the government for peace-building programs and operations, the PBO has relied on support from donor partners to implement field activities. Whenever this support ends, it becomes a huge challenge to fund and sustain programs.

Limited funding to the PBO and the other peace- building entities at the Ministry to enable the implementation of peace building programs hindered the abilities institution to fully carry out their mandates. For example, the shutdown of the LERN Platform due to the lack of funding to keep it functioning and the lack of incentives for monitors across the country to collect and transmit incident reports, has affected the entire early warning system, thereby leaving communities vulnerable to crimes and other violations.

14:0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are advanced for the kind consideration of the authority of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Central Government. They are:

- ✓ Reinforce Communication-There is a need to periodically schedule follow-up meetings to reiterate the critical nature of their reporting responsibilities and this provide additional support and clarification that may help eliminate misunderstanding regarding their roles and responsibilities.

- ✓ Accountability Measures: There should be a structured follow-up process and potential consequences regarding failure to comply with deadlines.

- ✓ Capacity building of political neutrality-there is a need to offer training aimed at fostering political neutrality in the workplace, highlighting the importance of fulfilling their professional duties regardless of political affiliations.
- ✓ That the Government accelerates appointment of members of Local Government Fiscal Board to implement the revenue sharing law at decentralized level;

- ✓ That the appropriate budgetary allotment is made to secure vehicles for the Minister, Deputy and Assistant Ministers and staff, as well as to address arrears to enable implementation of government' decentralization program;

- ✓ That the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning make allotment to address arrears owed to AARDO to enable the development of required skills-set to strengthen capacities of local government personnel;

- ✓ That the Ministry takes actions to conclude retirement and address huge payroll issues of local government appointees;

- ✓ That the Ministry increases its support for the establishment of the Commission on Peace and Reconciliation so as to address TRC recommendation 205 and to prevent huge transaction costs for government;

- ✓ That appropriate budgetary allocation is made to the Ministry to address infrastructure challenges at both central and county levels, including chiefs' residences so as to create enabling operating environment for productivity;

- ✓ That a policy is put in place to strengthen coordination and partnership so as to prevent resource waste and duplication of resources;

- ✓ That the Government takes full ownership of the peace and reconciliation programs of the country by supporting peace building programs and activities through budgetary support; and

- ✓ That the government takes actions to compel development partners to support priority areas of the development agenda of the country instead of the partners deciding which areas they would support.

15:0 CONCLUSION

Despite these challenges, the Ministry made tremendous achievements during the first quarter. It accelerated the implementation of the decentralization programs, including strengthening the capacities of the local structures such as the county councils, and the national council of chiefs as well as orientation of the 15-counties administrations. In addition, a reform process, including functional decentralization and establishment of local governments backed by legislation is on course. The bill seeking to establish the Ministry of Local Government was passed into law, through legislative engagements, facilitated by the Ministry. Dormant coordination structures related to fiscal, administrative and political decentralization have been reactivated. The institutionalization of weekly seminars aimed at developing functional operational skills and building technical knowledge of staff at the central level continued. Basic repair and maintenance work on the Ministry's building is in progress, as well as minimal office equipment and furniture procured.