PMUNC 2014

Liberia

Chair: Esther Maddox
Director:

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Chair's Letter

Hey everyone!

My name is Esther Maddox and I will be serving as your chair at PMUNC 2014. I am a sophomore at Princeton University with a prospective concentration in the Woodrow Wilson School or the Politics department and a certificate in African Studies. My first Model UN experiences began the fall of my freshmen year when I decided to try out for the team. As a member of the Princeton Model UN Team, I have the opportunity to travel around the country and world participating in various Model UN conferences. In the past year, I have been a delegate in conferences at Columbia University, Chicago University, and McGill University. My involvement in Team has also led me to be more involved with Princeton's International Relations Council, where I serve as the Community Service Co-Chair. As the Community Service Co-Chair I work on creating and implementing a program for middle and high school students in the local area that helps them learn more about International Relations and its relevance as well as allows for them to develop their public speaking and Model UN skills. I have worked two conferences previous to this one, PMUNC 2013 where I was a crisis staffer for the British and Irish Joint Crisis Committee and PICSIM 2014 (Princeton Interactive Crisis Simulation), our college conference, as the director for Interpol Committee. In the past year, I have learned so much from Model UN and I have had an amazing experience and I hope that I can share my knowledge with you and make sure that you have a wonderful time at PMUNC 2014!

A few of you may be wondering why I chose Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's Cabinet in 2005 and may even not be too sure where Liberia is on the map. I chose this particular topic for two primary reasons. First, as a Liberian, I really wanted to conduct a crisis committee that is near my own heart and interests. I felt that I, as well as all of you, would enjoy and benefit from something a little different. Second, I wanted to have a committee that explored the intricacies and crisis that arise out of a government that has been plagued by civil war for well over two decades, where child soldiers, coups, rape, massacre, drugs, and a completely fractured infrastructure has become the norm. I felt that this crisis committee is ideal because of the potential for some interesting and challenging crisis as well as the flexibility that comes with being set in more modern times and the current lack of major solutions to the country's problems. I really enjoyed developing this committee and I can't wait to see what great ideas and solutions you will all come up with.

Besides the massive amounts of time that I spend doing Model UN, I am also involved in the Princeton Association of Black Women as a board member and the Princeton Questbridge Scholars on campus. I have also participated in the events put on by Princeton Latinos y Amigos and recently was part of the Princeton Shakespeare Company's production of Twelfth Night as a cast member. When I am not busy with

class or my extracurriculars, I spend my spare minutes dreaming of sunny Southern California, binge watching Game of Thrones, American Horror Story, and Orange is the New Black. Please, if you have any questions about the conference or committee, do not hesitate to contact me beforehand. I look forward to meeting you all and fixing the world at PMUNC. Stay classy PMUNC Delegates!

Sincerely,
Esther Maddox

Introduction

Committee Description and Objective

In 2005, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was elected as President of the Republic of Liberia, following the years of widespread corruption, violence and turmoil. Sirleaf and her cabinet took office in January 2006 and were immediately faced with the many issues that would need to be addressed before Liberia could be stabilized and start on the pathway prosperity. The last two civil wars decimated the country, creating large-scale economic, political, social, and regional problems. Liberia faces crippling debt to the US and other nations that must be addressed in order for the country to move forward. In addition, there is the pertinent issue of Liberian refugees scattered across West Africa. The past two civil wars also decimated the infrastructure of Liberia; schools, hospitals, and sanitation need to be revamped. The problems that have arisen as a result of the civil wars has made the road towards stability very difficult for Liberia, and the implications of Liberia falling into chaos once again will not only mean bad news for just Liberians, but the West African Region at large. The cabinet must work through establishing a stable Liberian government in order to withstand any future disasters and avoid a looming third civil war on the horizon. The date that this simulation begins is **January 16, 2006**, the date on which President Sirleaf and her cabinet officially take office.

Committee Rules and Procedures

General Committee Rules

The committee will simulate the executive branch of the national governing body of Liberia. The cabinet, headed by the President is responsible for determining and executing the laws and policies of Liberia. For the purposes of this committee and to ease decision-making, we have taken liberties with the roles of the executive, assigning powers usually reserved for the legislative branch of the government. It is important to note that this is the first Cabinet elected since the civil war, and although the immediate fighting has ceased, instability still is present throughout the country and even more so in the government. Because of this fragility of the government, the power structure in the cabinet is always subject to change.

Attire and Language

All delegates are expected to wear Western Business Attire or, as the only alternative, traditional Liberian/West African Business Attire. The working and official language of the committee will be conducted in English.

Debate

The default setting for debate will be a continuous moderated caucus. The cabinet needs a simple majority to pass directives and a two-thirds majority to pass resolutions unless otherwise stated by the chair. Directives should be employed for crises that require immediate action while resolutions are better suited for detailing a long-term solution to a problem and should be used rarely. All sessions will begin with saluting the Liberian Flag and standing for the Liberian National Anthem.

Important Motions, Points, and Means of Communication

- Point of Order: A point of order may interrupt a speech and may be used when a delegate feels the Chair or another delegate is not correctly following the rules of procedure.

- Point of Inquiry: A point of inquiry may not interrupt a speaker and may be used to direct a question to the Chair to clarify parliamentary procedure or motions or to ask a question. Substantive analyses or speeches may not be made using a point of inquiry.

- Point of Information: A point of information may not interrupt a speech and may be brought up by a delegate in order either to clarify a point or motion, or to bring substantive information to the notice of the Dais. No analyses or speeches may be made using a point of information.

- Point of Personal Privilege: A point of personal privilege may be raised when a delegate's ability to participate in debate is impaired for any physical or logistical reason (for instance, if the speaker is not audible). In addition, this point may be used to bring up any issues with the conditions of the room, such as lighting or temperature. This point may interrupt a speech, and the Dais will immediately try to resolve the difficulty.

- Right of Reply: Right of reply may be invoked in the rare case that a delegate feels his or her personal dignity or integrity have been deliberately offended. The

delegate may raise his placard and ask the Chair for a Right of Reply, which will be awarded at the Chair's discretion

- Motion for a Moderated Caucus: A motion to enter into a moderated caucus must specify the topic of debate, the length of the caucus, and the time for each speech. Much of committee debate is expected to take place in moderated caucus.

- Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus: A motion for an unmoderated caucus is up to the Chair's discretion and must specify a topic of debate for the caucus. If this motion passes, the rules of debate will be suspended for the given amount of time and delegates will be permitted to leave their seats to discuss

amongst themselves and write documents for submission.

- Motion to Introduce Documents: A motion to introduce documents requests that submitted documents be introduced to the committee at large in order for them to be discussed. The document will be read out loud by the Chair or by the presenting delegate and be submitted for committee discussion if it has at least three signatures from delegates. If the document is a directive it will abide by the rules set forth below. In the case of a motion to introduce an amendment, if the

- amendment is friendly (that is, the sponsor(s) of the original documents consent to its adoption), it is immediately included as part of the proposed

document. If it is unfriendly, a simple majority is required to pass the amendment.

- Motion for a Question and Answer Session: At the Chair's discretion, after a document has been submitted for debate a delegate may motion for a question and answer session to ask questions of the document's author(s). If the Chair approves this motion, the rules of debate will be suspended for a session whose length is subject to the Chair's discretion.

- Motion to Split Directive Clauses: A motion may be made to split an already introduced directive into its component clauses, so as to vote on each clause separately. A three quarters majority is required for a motion to split directive clauses.

If this motion passes, then a motion may be made to enter voting procedure to vote on each clause separately. This motion is subject to the Chair's discretion.

- Motion to Enter Voting Procedure: If a delegate deems that a document has been sufficiently discussed, he or she may motion to enter voting procedure. If this motion passes then debate will be suspended on that document and the committee will enter voting procedure.

- Motion to Suspend Debate: At the end of a committee session a delegate may motion to suspend debate. If this motion passes then debate will be suspended and resume at the next committee session. This motion may be ruled out of order at the Chair's discretion and will only be

entertained at a time reasonably close to the end of the committee session.

- Motion to Adjourn Debate: At the end of the final committee session a delegate may motion to adjourn debate. If this motion passes then debate at this committee for this conference will be adjourned and committee business will be concluded. This motion may be ruled out of order at the Chair's discretion.

Members of the committee may introduce any of the following types of legislation in general debate:

- Directive: Directives are standard orders. All direct actions taken by this committee require a directive. Directives pass with a simple majority.

- Communiqué: Communiqués are formal communications (private by default) directed from the committee to other governments, individuals, or organizations. Committee communiqués pass by simple majority.

- Amendments: If amendment is friendly (that is, the sponsor(s) of the original documents consent to its adoption), it is immediately included as part of the proposed document. If it is unfriendly, a simple majority is required to pass the amendment.

History

Origins of Liberia

In the year 1820, there began serious talk of sending free blacks (former slaves) in America back to Africa. The American Colonization Society (ACS) was formed to send African American volunteers to the Pepper Coast (dubbed that by the Portuguese, Dutch, and British traders that dominated the western coast of Africa). The ACS was supported by many prominent politicians of the time, like Abraham Lincoln, and James Monroe, who believed repatriation was preferable to emancipation. As a result of the ACS, only 528 free African Americans were convinced to go to the West coast of Africa and were later to be known as "Americo-Liberians". With them, they brought to Liberia a culture infused with American notions of racial superiority and political representation.

After living as a West African Colony for two decades, Liberians finally declared their independence from the ACS on July 26, 1847. They created their own constitution and became known as the Republic of Liberia. The leadership of this new republic was disproportionately dominated by the Americo-Liberians. As a result of this, there were many clashes between the indigenous Africans who were denied citizenship under the constitution up until 1904.

At the beginning Liberia's economic development was hindered by the large amounts of debt from the international markets and the lack of markets for Liberian goods. With the start of the 20th century came great changes for Liberia. With US

assistance, Liberia became a modernized nation and grew. The Lend-Lease act during WW2 brought seaports and airports to Liberia. Tubman, the president at the time, encouraged foreign investment in Liberia, making it the country with the 2nd highest rate if economic growth in the 1950's. Liberia became more confident in her position in the world and involved herself more in the realm of international affairs. Liberia was a founding member of the UN, a prominent critic of South African Apartheid, and a proponent of African independence from European Colonialism and Pan-Africanism.

First Civil War

However, it seems that even in the case of Liberia, all good things must come to an end. In the spring of 1980 Master Sergeant Samuel Doe (from the Krahn ethnic group) led a military coup that overthrew President Tolbert Jr.'s government, killing him and the majority of his cabinet and governmental officials. The coup members founded the People's Redemption Council (PRC) and used it as the political front to rule over the country. Because of the strategic position of Liberia during the Cold War, Liberia became an important ally for the US and the Doe regime received financial backing from the US. With the occurrence of a failed coup on the Doe regime by Thomas Quiwonkpa, government repression intensified as the Doe regime executed many Gio and Mano tribe members. These government crackdowns led to what would be known as the first Liberian Civil War. The war lasted from 1989 to 1997 and left in its wake 200,000 dead.

The former government minister Charles Taylor came from the Ivory Coast to start an uprising that would eventually tipple the Doe government. His group, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) was made up of Gio and Mano people who were heavily persecuted under the Doe regime. The NPFL invaded Liberia through the North, in Nimba County in December of 1989. The Liberian Army was ready to counter the invasion, however as a result many civilians were caught in the crossfire. The Liberian Army killed civilians and burned down villages, triggering the mass fleeings from Liberia to neighboring Guinea and Ivory Coast as well as inflaming of the opposition for Doe. In June of 1990, Taylor along with Prince Johnson was laying siege to the capital city, Monrovia. But by July, Prince Johnson decided to split from the NPFL and form the Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL).

August brought the economic union of Africa ECOWAS into the conflict when they created an intervention force called ECOMOG. Their goals with this intervention force were to have a ceasefire, an interim government, safe evacuation of foreign nationals and containment. However, the fighting continued to rage, and Prince Johnson captured Doe at the ECOMOG headquarters in Monrovia and proceeded to brutally torture, execute and dismember Doe on camera in September of 1990. With Doe and his forces out of the way, Prince Johnson and Charles Taylor entered a power struggle over Monrovia.

Finally, towards the end of 1990, ECOMOG got2 Taylor and

Johnson to agree to an intervention, and an interim government was formed under the supervision of ECOWAS. However the influence and power of this interim government extended only as far as Monrovia. The rest of Liberia was still warring and controlled by local gangs and factions of the NPFL. In June of 1991, an uprising of former Doe supporters appeared as ULIMO. They fought against NPFL. However even they were not immune to power struggles and eventually split into two factions. By this time, innumerable amounts of human rights violations had occurred at the hands of the fighters and their leaders and so many Liberians were in desperate need of humanitarian assistance, but were unable to receive any.

In August of 1995 the main factions in Liberia agreed to a ceasefire, and Charles Taylor agreed to a timetable to disarm troops. The main warlords in Liberia (Taylor, Kromah, Boley) helped prepare Liberia for elections. However the elections were postponed because fighting broke out once again in Liberia. Elections resumed in 1997 where Charles Taylor and his party the National Patriotic Party won overwhelmingly against 12 other candidates and parties, averaging 75% in the elections. The 1997 marked the end of the First Liberian Civil War.

Second Liberian Civil War

The Second Liberian Civil War began in 1999 when the Liberians United for reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), a rebel group backed by Guinea, emerged from Northern Liberia, led by Sekou

Conneh. The dissidents were thought to be from the Mandinka and Krahn fighters of the former pro-Doe ULIMOJ and ULIMOK. Also important in forming LURD was an alliance, brokered by ECOMOGSL Nigerian chief General Maxwell Khobe, between Liberian dissidents and the Sierra Leonean Kamajors hunter militia, including chiefs Sam Hinga-Norman and Eddie Massally.

Against the dissidents Taylor deployed irregular ex-NPFL fighters with his more privileged units, such as the Antiterrorist Unit, positioned to ensure the irregulars did fight. Simultaneous September 2000 counterattacks on Guinea from Liberia and Sierra Leone by RUF – still loyal to Taylor and Guinean dissidents – achieved initial success. By January 2001, however, Taylor's forces were pushed back inside Sierra Leone and

Liberia. The insurgents were posing a major threat to the Taylor government. Liberia was now engaged in a complex three-way conflict with Sierra Leone and the Guinea Republic.

By the beginning of 2002, both of these countries were supporting LURD, while Taylor was supporting various opposition factions in both countries. By supporting — practically creating — the SL rebels, the Revolutionary United Front, Taylor also drew the enmity of the British and Americans. British and U.S. pressure on Taylor increased with rising financial support for Guinea and U.S./U.K. proposed sanctions, a weaker version of which were imposed by U.N. Security Council May 2001.

By mid February 2002 LURD troops were just 44 kilometers from Monrovia, at Klay Junction, and Taylor

was forced to declare a state of emergency. The February 2002 ICG report says that this attack was made by pursuing 'a strategy of infiltration of southwestern Liberia through the thick bush of Southern Lofa, looping around government strongholds and disrupting supply lines while LURD claims between 300 and 500 men were assigned to that mission, the number that actually attacked was likely closer to twenty.' Any image of a large force gradually pushing toward Monrovia is mistaken; 'hit and run' raids, rather than a continuous advance, seem to have been the pattern.

Through the first half of 2002 LURD mounted raids in Bomi, Bong, and Montserrado counties, hitting, in addition to Klay Junction, Gbarnga and Tubmanburg, each time temporarily seizing control from government fighters. In May, an attack on Arthington, less than 20 kilometres from the capital, apparently prompted panic in Monrovia. The state of emergency was lifted in September 2002, after, the government claimed, the township of Bopolu had been retaken. In early 2003, a second rebel group, the Ivoirian backed Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL), emerged in the south, and by the summer of 2003, Taylor's government controlled only a third of the country. Despite some setbacks, by mid-2003 LURD controlled the northern third of the country and was threatening the capital. The capital Monrovia was besieged by LURD, and that group's shelling of the city resulted in the deaths of many civilians. Thousands of people were displaced from their homes as a result of the conflict.

A new bout of fighting began in March 2003 after a relative lull and by early May; LURD and MODEL had gained control of nearly two thirds of the country, and were threatening Monrovia.

Regional and wider pressure led to the convening of a conference in Accra by the then Chair of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), John Kufuor of Ghana, on June 4, 2003.By July 2003 Monrovia appeared to be in danger of being occupied and devastated despite ongoing peace talks. The U.S. established Joint Task Force Liberia, built around a U.S. navy amphibious group with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit aboard, positioned off the West African coast. In July 2003 the United States sent a small number of troops to bolster security around their embassy in Monrovia,

which had come under attack, during Operation Shining Express. On 29 July 2003, LURD declared a ceasefire. ECOWAS sent Nigerian peacekeepers to Liberia. The first Nigerian battalion came from Sierra Leone, detaching from United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, and a second came from Nigeria itself. President Taylor resigned on August 11, 2003, ahead of the Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which formed the negotiated end to the war, and was flown into exile in Nigeria. Interpol later issued an arrest warrant for Taylor for war crimes committed by his Revolutionary United Front rebel allies in Sierra Leone but Nigeria refused to deport him for a time unless they receive a specific request from Liberia. Vice-president Moses Blah replaced Taylor. On August 14, rebels lifted their siege of Monrovia

and 200 American soldiers landed to support a West African peace force. Thousands of people danced and sang as American troops and ECOMIL, the Nigerian led West African forces, took over the port and bridges which had split the capital into government and rebel held zones. An estimate 1,000 people had been killed in Monrovia between July 18 and August 14. Moses Blah handed over power to the National Transitional Government of Liberia on October 14, 2003. However, the transitional government exercised no real authority in the country, 80% of which was controlled by the rebel groups.

Other Issues in the Wars

It has been said that no other conflict in the 21st century made use of Child Soldiers more than the Liberian Civil War. Both Taylor and

LURD made extensive use of children in military service and were prolific on both sides of the conflict.

Liberian beliefs were often a mix of Protestantism, Catholicism, Islam and native West African Shamanism. The result was a confusing syncretic religion that was believed by many combatants. Several leaders claimed to have chosen sides or determined strategy based on visions, portents, and prophetic dreams. Best known for this was Joseph Blahyi, an antigovernment warlord who declared war on Charles Taylor after receiving a phone call from the Devil.

There were also numerous cases of human sacrifice in the civil war. It was an acceptable practice to sacrifice, eat, maim, and murder individuals in order to attain prowess in battles.

Drugs also became an important part of the fighting culture. Child soldiers and other combatants were routinely addicted to cocaine, khat, and other drugs as a means of control.

The women of Liberia had a very important role in ending the 14-year civil war of Liberia. They formed the organization called Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace and forced Taylor to attend peace talks in Ghana. Under the organization, they held nonviolent protests and put pressure on warring factions.

Economics and Infrastructure

Economy

Liberia is one of the world's poorest countries, with a formal unemployment rate of only 15%. The GDP per capita of Liberia in 2005 was at $170 USD, one of the lowest in the world[1]. The Liberian economy has depended heavily on foreign aid and direct investment as well as the exportation of natural resources such as rubber, timber, and iron ore. Current impediments to growth include a small domestic market, lack of adequate infrastructure, high transportation costs, poor trade links with neighboring countries and the high dollarization of the economy. While official commodity exports

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[1] http://www.indexmundi.com/facts/liberia/gdppercapita

declined during the 1990s as many investors fled the civil war, Liberia's wartime economy featured the exploitation of the region's diamond wealth. The country acted as a major trader in Sierra Leonean blood diamonds, exporting over US$300 million in diamonds in 1999. This led to a United Nations ban on Liberian diamond exports in 2001, which was not lifted by the time our simulation starts in January 2006. In 2003, additional UN sanctions were placed on Liberian timber exports, which had risen from US$5 million in 1997 to over US$100 million in 2002 and were believed to be funding rebels in Sierra Leone. As of January 2006, these sanctions are still in place. Due in large part to foreign aid and investment inflow following the end of the war, Liberia maintains a large account deficit, which, as of January

2006, is only increasing. Liberia is currently not a member or an observer in the World Trade Organization. The Firestone Tire and Rubber Company have operated the world's largest rubber plantation in Liberia since 1926. Due to its status as a flag of convenience, the country has the second largest maritime registry in the world behind Panama, with 3,500 vessels registered under its flag accounting for 11% of ships worldwide.

Communications

Communication in Liberia includes the press, radio, television, telephone (landline and mobile) and the Internet. As a result of the two consecutive civil wars in Liberia, much of the communications infrastructure that existed before the unrest was

destroyed or plundered[2]. In addition to destroyed infrastructure, the wars contributed to low rates of adult literacy and high rates of poverty, limiting the predominate forms of communication to radio (http://www.audiencescapes.org/countryprofilesliberiacountryoverviewquantitativesurveyqualitativeanalysisresearch). Despite this, Liberia's media has grown since the end of the war. There has been a steady increase of newspaper publications, radio and television stations, telephone lines and Internet providers and users. However, Liberia still has a long way to go since the percentage of the population with access to these media outlets are comparably low to those of other developing African nations.

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[2] http://www.ppiaf.org/sites/ppiaf.org/files/publication/PPIAFImpactStoriesReformingLiberiaTelecomSector.pdf

Education

Education in Liberia has been and continues to be negatively affected by the First and Second Liberian Civil Wars between 1989 and 2003. UNICEF reported that the Literacy rate of Liberia this past year hovered around 64% for males between the ages of 15-24 years and 37.2% for females between the ages of 15 and 24[3]. Although primary and secondary education is free and mandatory from the ages of 616, local government officials have had trouble enforcing attendance throughout the country. On average, Liberian children attend about 10 years of schooling (8 years for girls and 11 years for boys)[4].

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[3] http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/liberia_statistics.html

[4] http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/soe/cihe/inhea/profiles/Liberia.htm

The Liberian School system is plagued with inadequate facilities and supplies, as well as a lack of qualified staff and teachers.

Liberia also has a number of public and private higher education providers. The University of Liberia is the oldest and largest university, and includes 6 professional schools including a Medical School and the nation's only Law School. The government has also opened community colleges throughout the country.

Health

The Liberian Health System is yet another part of the Liberian Infrastructure severely affected by its 14 years of civil war. Liberia has approximately 5,000 full time or part time workers and 51 doctors to serve a population of 3.8 million people (a ratio of 76 patients to every one doctor or health worker). Most of the medical infrastructure in Liberia was destroyed during the civil wars and the government used only 16.8% of its total health expenditure in the country. Because of the inability for the government to provide the full scope of medical aid to its population, there has been a heavy reliance on aid from the international community to help support the development of health infrastructure. Liberia has received help from WHOM, GAVI, MSF that have contributed equipment, vaccinations, and man power to the ailing Liberian Health system. As a result of the many years of intense war, many Liberians suffer from mental illness, as well as mental and physical trauma. A study reported by the American Medical Association stated that 40% of adults in Liberia

have shown symptoms of major depressive disorders, 44% had symptoms of PTSD. As of now, the availability of psychiatric health is severely limited, with only one psychiatric professional and one mental health hospital with only 80 beds, and over 1 million victims. In addition to mental health disorders, there is also the problem of malnutrition, the Integrated Regional Information Networks news reported that 45% of Liberian children suffer from malnutrition. Malnutrition in children affects not only the present, but also the future. Because malnourished children will have difficulties learning today, the economy of Liberia will be affected tomorrow.

Transportation

The transportation infrastructure includes railways, highways, seaports and airports. As with the rest of the country's infrastructure, the majority of the railways, airports, seaports, and highways were damaged during the 14 years of civil war. As of now, the three railways for ore exportation are out of service. The highways in Liberia are deteriorated due to heavy rains and lack of maintenance, and many roads in Liberia are unpaved. Out of the 47 major airports in Liberia, only 2 have paved runways. The seaports of Liberia, and particularly that of Monrovia, receive many shipments from all over the world; however, lack of security and regulation leaves these ports vulnerable to theft and disruption.

Government Structure of Liberia

Government

The Liberian government is modeled after the government of the United States; it is a unitary constitutional republic and representative democracy as established by the Constitution. The government has three equal branches: the executive which is headed by the president; the legislative, which consists of a bicameral Legislature; and judiciary, consisting of the Supreme Court and several lower courts.

The president serves as the head of government, head of state and the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of Liberia. The president is also responsible for signing or vetoing legislative bills and appointing cabinet members, judges and other public officials. The president and vice president are elected to a six-year term by majority vote in a two round system and are limited to serving up to two years in office.

The Legislature is composed of the Senate and House of Representatives. The House is led by a speaker and has 73 members from among the 15 counties and is based on the national census, with each county receiving a minimum of 2 representatives. House members are elected by popular vote of their district for six-year terms. The Senate is made up of 30 senators, two from each county. The senators serve 9-year terms and are elected by a plurality of the popular vote. The vice president serves as the President of the Senate.

The highest court in Liberia, the Supreme Court, is made up of 5 members and headed by the Chief Justice of Liberia. Members are nominated to the court by the President and confirmed by the Senate. A member of the Supreme Court serves until the age of 70. The judiciary is further divided into circuit, specialty, magistrate courts and justice of the peace. The judicial system is based on a combination of Anglo-American law and customary law, however an informal system of traditional courts still exists within the rural areas of the country despite being officially outlawed.

Military

The Armed forces of Liberia (AFL) are the armed forces of the country, originally founded as the Liberian Frontier Force in 1908. The AFL has been a recipient of material and training assistance from the United States.

Politics

Liberia is still in transition from dictatorship and civil war into democracy. According to Freedom House, in 2005, Liberia was reported as "Partly Free", with scores of (on a scale of 1 to 7 with 1 being the best and 7 being the worst) 4.5 for a total freedom rating, 4 for civil liberties, and 5 for Political rights. The press of Liberia is also only partly free.

Local government is broken down into the following hierarchies: Town Chief, Clan Chief, Paramount Chief, District Commissioner, Superintendent of the County who is appointed by the government. A local tribal group elects the Clan Chief and

the Paramount Chief is the top leader for a tribal group.

Committee Positions

- Minister of Finance:
  - The Minister of Finance shall be charged with the following duties:
    - To effectively and efficiently manage the financial resources of the Republic; be the depository of Government funds and of all indicia to title of assets of Government
    - To administer the revenue program of the government, including supervision of the collection of the revenues
    - To report the financial activities and financial position of the Government to the President and the Legislature
    - To maintain the central accounting records of the Government and prescribe for all Government agencies of accounts reporting and documentation necessary to safeguard the assets of the Government
    - To formulate fiscal policies for financial planning
    - To disburse Government funds in accordance with

legislative appropriations

- Generally to perform all such services relative to the government finances as are required by law.

- Minister of Foreign Affairs

  ◦ The task of the Foreign Service is to assist in realizing the Government's overall goals in matters of foreign policy. The Ministry is also responsible for coordinating Liberia foreign policy in the Government Offices. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to maintain and promote friendly relations between Liberia and her foreign partners; the Ministry seeks to secure the maximum,

political, economic and cultural benefits to the nation. The Ministry communicates directly with Foreign Governments through its own Missions overseas or through their diplomatic agents in Liberia on matters of prime concern to the Government.

  ◦ These include its:

    - Diplomatic relations,

    - Regional and international political issues

    - Treaties and conventions, and aid and economic issues.

- Minister of Transportation

  ◦ The mission of the Ministry of Transport is to establish a policy framework that ensures an effective and

efficient service delivery, and infrastructure development in support of the overall growth and development of Liberia, which can be assured through the development and execution of the National Transport Policy and National Transport Master Plan.

- Minister of Land, Mines, and Energy
  - The Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy comprises of the following departments:
    - The Department of Lands, Surveys and Cartography which consists of the Liberian Cartographic Service and the Bureau of Lands and Surveys
    - The Department of Mineral Exploration and Research, which consists of the Liberian Geological Survey and the Liberian Hydrological Service
    - The Department of Mines and Mineral Resources Development and Conservation which consists of the Bureau of Mines and Bureau of Economic Forecast and Mining Concession Appraisal
    - The Department of Energy which consists of the Bureau of Hydrocarbons and the Bureau of Energy

Technology and Policy

Development

- The Department of

  Planning and

  Development

- The Inspectorate

  Division

- The Department of

  Administration

- Over the years and

  during the period under

  review, the Ministry

  accomplished a number

  of tasks in the areas of

  contracting concession

  investment in the

  mineral sector by

  awarding numerous

  mineral rights,

  instituting reform in the

  land sector by adopting

  policies to control the

  illicit trafficking of

deeds, providing safe

drinking water by

conducting research in

water quality analysis

with help from many

institutions

(Governmental, NGOs,

PVOs, International

Organizations, etc.), the

compilation of data with

the aim of producing a

new mineral resources

map of the country, and

the supervision and

controlled monitoring of

the alluvial mining

sector. The Ministry,

during the period

reactivated the National

Energy Committee

(NEC) an interagency

advisory body on

energy matters

comprising nine members including government ministries and public corporations. This is in agreement with the multisectoral approach being encouraged by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

- Minister of Education
  - The mission of the Ministry of Education is to provide quality education for all and prepare future leaders who are capable of handling the task of nation building, protecting our national heritage and enhancing the socioeconomic growth and development for the

sustenance of the Liberian state.

- 7 Key Strategic Initiatives: Education ministry
  - Decentralization and system transformation
  - Improve efficiency at the Ministry of Education Central Office
  - Improve educational leadership at all levels (County Education Officers (CEOs), District Education Officers (DEOs), Schools, Principals and Teachers)
  - Establishment of functional County Education Offices and Learning Resource Centers in each of the 15 counties

- ▪ Recruitment and training of County Education Staff
- ▪ Establishment of the Centers of Excellence Educational Management, Accreditation & Certification and Curriculum Development
- ▪ Construction, rehabilitation and renovation of schools
- Minister of Internal Affairs
  - ○ The Ministry of Internal Affairs formulates and implements policies relating to defense, security, law and order.
    - ▪ The mission of the Ministry is to provide the highest possible level of security in the state, which is attained through preventive rather than repressive action of the law enforcement agencies. Aiming to implement both tasks, the Ministry of the Interior is responsible for public security and police, internal administrative affairs and migrations, pursuant to the State laws.
    - ▪ The Ministry of the Interior, together with the Police and the Internal Affairs Inspectorate as autonomous bodies within its framework, performs tasks defined

by law in the following fields of activity:

▪ Internal administrative affairs.

▪ Police and security: Police Force: Is responsible for the maintenance of law and order, preservation of peace, protection of life and property, the prevention and detection of crime and the enforcement of all laws it is directly charged with.

◦ Immigration: Is responsible for the administration of immigration functions throughout the country. This includes the formulation and implementation of policies relating to work permits, investments, passports, and citizenship and for maintaining services at ports of entry. It provides statistics through its computerized system that is used by various government departments and the private sector for planning purposes.

◦ Military Forces: Is made up of the Army and the Naval Force, who are responsible for defense, internal security, international peacekeeping duties, nation building, youth training & infrastructure development in rural areas, support operations during disasters, emergencies and maritime research and rescue.

- Minister of Justice and Attorney General
  - Duties of the Ministry of Justice
    - To procure the proper evidence for, and conduct, prosecute, or defend all suits and proceedings in the courts in which the Republic or any officer thereof, as to such officer, is a party or may be interested.
    - Institute all legal proceedings necessary for law enforcement.
    - Furnish opinions as to legal matters and render services requiring legal skills to the president and other agencies of the

Executive Branch of Government.

- Oversee the codification of Liberian Statutory Law; administer the laws relating to admission, deportation and naturalization of aliens, and the regulation of aliens within Liberia.
- Supervise the Correctional System and the commitment and treatment of prisoner.
- To the extent stated in the Aliens and Nationality Law, administer laws relating to the admission, deportation and naturalization of aliens,

and the regulations of aliens within Liberia;

- Supervise the activities of the National Bureau of Investigation, the National Central Bureau and the National Police Force.

- Oversee all government activities relating to administration of the Vehicle and Traffic Law prevention and control of fires;

- Minister of national defense

  - The Ministry of Defense carries out administrative and professional tasks related to the national defense plan; development, organization, equipment, functioning, and command and control of the Liberian Armed Forces; preparation of civil defense.

  - The Ministry of Defense prepares government business connected with the total defense, i.e. military and civil defense, protection and preparedness against accidents and preparedness for severe peacetime emergencies.

  - Defense reform

    - The Liberia defense system is undergoing one of the largest military reforms to be undertaken by Liberia in modern times as it is transformed from a defense force against invasion.

- The Ministry of Defense aims to fulfill the objectives set by the Government.
- Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism
  - The Ministry is the government's major information agency providing the link between the government, the media and the public. Government's role is to better inform the public about major national development issues and evolve an informed approach to resolving them. The Information Services division includes a News Department, Film and Television Unit, Photography Unit, and a

Research, Publication and Website Section.

  - Media Sector Development: The focus of media sector development is to encourage awareness of government's plans, policies and progress within the country and abroad including greater awareness of the people's social, economic and political environment. The development of the media including the raising of journalistic standards, human resources and capacity building is being actively encouraged. In recognizing its role in nation building and national development the media must work with

government, local authorities and nongovernment organizations in promoting national unity by encouraging people's participation in development through well researched and informative material for public dissemination.

◦ Media Legislation: The Ministry is responsible for developing and introducing new media legislation to develop a more vibrant media industry. The introduction of new media laws will help facilitate transparency and accountability in the media.

◦ Main Areas of Activity: The activities of the Ministry of

Culture relate to the creation, communication and protection of cultural values and media.

◦ Tourism: The ministry responsible for policy, programme, research, statistical review and formulation of tourism development planning. Its principal task is to coordinate and execute tourism development programmed; monitor the effectiveness of incentives provided by Government; promote and facilitate the development of the tourism industry and through the Liberian Tourist Bureau (LTB).

• Minister of Public Works

- ○ The Ministry of Public Works carries out the following broad junctions:
    - ▪ Provision of advice, technical services, planning, design and construction of works projects for other Government Departments and Agencies.
    - ▪ Management of works and maintenance programs associated with public buildings, roads bridges, airfields, jetties, water supplies, sewerage and rural electricity; and
    - ▪ Maintenance and operation of facilities owned by the Government.

- • Minister of Agriculture
    - ○ This office:
        - ▪ Oversees and coordinates activities of each of the Departments of the Ministry
        - ▪ Keeps abreast of potentially available international donor assistance;
        - ▪ Investigates and follows up on offers of international assistance that are consistent with development needs
        - ▪ Handles necessary details relating to negotiations and agreements in connection with assistance from external sources;

- Coordinates the activities of and provides assistance to foreign consultants and advisors working with the Ministry;
- Coordinates international travel and arranges for appropriate dissemination of information from resulting reports.

○ The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Liberia is responsible for the development of the agriculture sector. It does so by ensuring that an effective organizational structure is put in place and is manned by staff capable of planning, coordinating, implementing, and monitoring and evaluating agricultural development programs from time to time. It also ensures that its staff and the farmers are trained to cope with the challenges of the agricultural activities. Additionally, the Ministry ensures that agricultural problems that impede production are investigated and lasting solutions found, and the farmers are provided the supportive services and the enabling environment to produce. The Ministry's core general areas of responsibility will most probably continue to consist of: agriculture, both smallholder and

commercial; plantation crops; fisheries; and livestock.

- Minister of Commerce and Industry

  ○ Mission Statement

    ▪ "As a strong partner we strive to create sound policies promptly for commerce and trade that facilitate private sector growth and innovations, while setting standards that will empower all of our consumers to make informed decisions improving the quality of life for all. In particular we will facilitate private sector growth, and set good policies and standards to achieve this. Among our many partners we will be particularly focused on existing and new business, consumers, and helping move the informal into the formal sector. We will do this with respect for all partners, with accountability for efficient and effective performance and with professional standards at a high level of integrity.

    ▪ Roles and Functions

      • Establish and regulate commodity and trade standards; Collect, evaluate, and publish data pertaining to

Commerce and Industry; Establish and enforce standards for business practices; Promote sound development of foreign and domestic trade; Issue Import and Export Permits; Control quality of goods and commodity imported into and exported from the Country; Implement efficient and effective trade management system including preshipment Inspection of imports and exports;

Monitoring and regulating prices of essential goods.

- Minister of Health and Social Welfare
  - Duties of Minister of Health and Social Welfare
    - The Minister of Health & Social Welfare shall be charged with the responsibility of administering governmental activities pertaining to the protection and improvement of Public Health and Social Welfare.
    - More specifically, the duties of the Minister shall include:
      - Prevention of the introduction and

spread of communicable, infectious, and preventable diseases within the Republic;

- Prevention of medical care and treatment through public hospitals, clinics, mental institutions and rehabilitation centers for alcoholic and narcotic addicts;
- Licensing and supervision of medical practitioners and facilities;
- Promotion and conduct of research in the prevention and treatment of

human diseases and the collection and compilation of pertinent statistical data;

- Prevention and abatement of conditions hazardous to the public health;
- Supervise the collection of data relating to births, deaths, and burials;
- Supervise and regulate the sanitary aspects of hotels, boarding houses, public eating and drinking establishments, bathing establishments, and

other businesses and activities affecting public health;

- Overseeing the just, humane and economic administration of all Government operated welfare institutions exclusive of those expressly within the purview of other agencies of Government;
- Supervising the distribution of all relief and welfare funds granted by the Government to the needy and underprivileged;

- Cooperate with the judicial system in its administration of the law relating to juvenile delinquency; and with any other agencies of the Government authorized to administer institutions or activities concerned with social welfare;
- Under authority of statute or executive order, to lend assistance to persons in need because of public disaster;
- Originate and participate in

programs for promotion of child welfare and for prevention of juvenile delinquency;

- To the extent provided by law, to oversee the care of juvenile delinquencies and homeless children in foster homes, hostels, and vocational institutions;

- Improve rehabilitation knowledge and its application to increase the nation's service supply of trained

rehabilitation manpower and to promote public understanding about the needs and ability of handicapped people;

- Promote research, experiments, investigation and studies in the education development of scientific methods for the diagnosis and prevention of social problems;

- Offer assistance in the management of charitable organizations established within the Republic so as to

provide maximum benefits to the public and ensure that their funds are utilized for the purposes for which they were established; and

- Perform such other functions as may from time to time be assigned by the President.

- Minister of Gender and Development

  ◦ The Ministry is the primary advisor to Government on public policies that affect women. The Ministry Plan of Action includes strategic objectives and directions for action in:

    ▪ Balancing Gender in Decision Making

    ▪ Violence Against Women and Culture

    ▪ Mainstreaming of women's and gender concerns in the planning process and all policy areas.

    ▪ Women and the Law

- Minister of Labor

  ◦ The main sections of the Ministry and their objectives are as follows:

    ▪ Promote and encourage an enabling environment for accelerated growth and employment, facilitate the process of formalization of employment through appropriate policy intervention, improve and promote

opportunities for technical and vocational training especially in the rural areas

- Permanent Arbitrator — to provide a permanent institution for adjudication of industrial disputes on an expeditious and consistent basis.

- Occupational Health and Safety — the effective administration of the legislation and other standards relating to occupational health and safety and the promotion of a high standard of health and safety in all places of work.

- Legal — provides legal advice on labor legislation, and also litigation and prosecution services for all sections of the Ministry.

- Training — provides effective training programs for the staff in order that the highest quality services are delivered.

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