

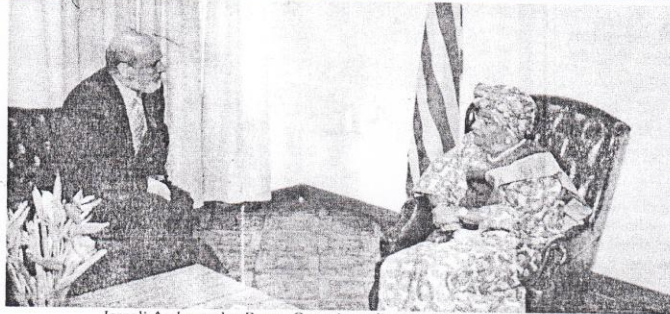
NATIONAL NEWS

Israeli Ambassador Benny Omer Pays Courtesy Call on President Sirleaf

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has welcomed the initiative of bringing Israeli investors to Liberia to explore potential cooperation in several areas. The Liberian leader named agriculture, infrastructure and energy as priority areas of her government. As regards agriculture, she indicated that what appears to be a global trend of rising food prices tells all Liberians that they must be able to feed themselves. "We very much welcome that and are aware of the successes that Israel has had, with such limited territory, in

producing not only for self-sufficiency but for export," President Sirleaf said.

According to an Executive Mansion release, President Sirleaf made the assertion when the Ambassador of the State of Israel to Liberia, His Excellency Benny Omer, paid her a courtesy call at her Foreign Ministry office on Tuesday, August



Israeli Ambassador Benny Omer in audience with President Sirleaf

21. President Sirleaf thanked Ambassador Omer for all that he is doing to strengthen the relationship between the two countries, as well as

introducing private sector cooperation. This is something that we very much welcome because we feel natural resources make us a great potential for investment, led by private sector growth, she said.

For his part, Ambassador Omer informed President Sirleaf that his visit here is to explore potential

cooperation between the two countries both at the level of government and the private sector, as well as interest in investing in Liberia. He admitted that it is a challenge bringing in investors, because many have the wrong impression about Liberia, and he has taken it as a personal challenge to promote Liberia among Israeli businessmen.

The Israeli Ambassador, who is covering the sub-region and is based in Côte d'Ivoire, said that Israeli investors have expressed

interest in venturing in the areas of trade, road construction (stabilization of rural roads), electricity (solar energy), mining and oil exploration, food security (agriculture), and the construction of a skills training institution.

The President and her visitor also discussed regional issues, including the situation in Mali and Egypt, among other topical issues. Israel shares a border with Egypt.

While in the country, Ambassador Omer held discussions with government officials, including the Ministers of Agriculture, Public Works, and Lands, Mines, and Energy, among others.

Ambassador Omer was accompanied to the President's Office by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan.

FIND Urges Senate Not To Pass Democracy Sustenance Act



By Nathaniel Walker

The Foundation for International Dignity (FIND), a human right Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) is urging members of the Liberian Senate not to concur with the House of Representatives of the 53rd National Legislature on the passage of the Democracy Sustenance act of 2012.

Last week, the 56th day sitting of the Plenary of the House of Representatives voted to pass the act into law and subsequently forwarded it to their Senate counterparts for concurrence.

But FIND in a release issued in Monrovia yesterday, stated that the act is not in the best interest of Liberians, especially the less fortunate, as many are experiencing intense hardship.

The democratic sustenance act of 2012 seeks to, among other things, strengthen democracy in Liberia through the funding of political parties by government.

However, the release signed by FIND Executive Director

Roosevelt Woods warned the Liberian Senate against its concurrence with the House of Representatives on the passage of the act, noting that when enacted into law, it will undermine Liberia's economic growth and enrich a few greedy politicians at the detriment of the greater population who can not afford a single meal daily, less to mention three.

Calling on the senators to give ears to the voices of Liberians who are asking them not to concur with the representatives, the FIND release reminded them that they were elected by the very people so as to represent them at the highest level.

Asking the senators to immediately throw the bill out of the legislature, FIND argued that the piece of legislation is indeed sinister and does not in any way represent the aspiration of Liberia's citizenry.

The release stated: "Our legislators must prioritize legislations on crucial issues that are affecting the lives of ordinary Liberians. For instance, the reduction of

poverty, the full restoration of pipe borne water and electricity throughout the country, the enactment into law of the decent work bill, the public code of conduct act and the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) report amongst others."

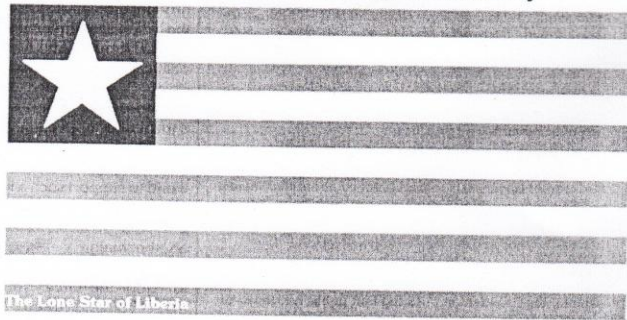
In order to be consider for such government support in years to come, the human rights organization stressed the need for political parties to "demonstrate to the Liberian people that they are service oriented, de-individualized, accountable and transparent in their actions and operations and as well as complying with the electoral laws by publishing their respective financial statements.

Meanwhile, FIND has commended President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for recently announcing the suspension of 46 of lieutenants for falling short of declaring their assets to the Liberia Anti Corruption Commission (LACC).

FIND described President Sirleaf's action as a right move in her fight against corruption, adding that it should be welcomed by every well meaning Liberian, particularly those in the vanguard of helping the government combat corruption and other undemocratic vices that had been attributed to Liberia's backwardness.

Liberians Mobilized For Reconciliation Tournament

-Storm ATS on Flag Day This Friday



The Lone Star of Liberia

Although the Liberian Government is making frantic efforts to promote peace and reconciliation amongst its citizens who are deeply divided by years of political and tribal hostilities, there are those who believe that the task is extremely huge to be carried out by government.

To achieve its dream, the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Administration has allocated US\$5M in the current National Draft

Budget which is still being debated, although the effort has been criticized by detractors of the regime.

However, the Liberia Marketing and Expediting Services, Incorporated (LIMES) is amongst institutions that are making attempt to buttress government's initiatives in an effort to promote lasting peace and reconciliation in the country.

The LIMES on Friday, August 10, 2012, launched a campaign to

sponsor a one day national peace and reconciliation soccer tournament

at the Antoinette Tubman Stadium in Monrovia. The event, which is set for Friday, August 24, 2012, is in commemoration of Liberia National Flag Day.

Addressing journalists recently at the Destiny Sports Bar and Grill on the Capitol Bypass, LIMES Managing Director, Mohammed F.

Kromah, said the event will provide a one shot