



LIHEDE • 2285 Rothwood Acres Drive Greensboro, NC 37406 • phone: (336) 456-8075 • fax: (336) 334-7433 • web: WWW.LIHEDE.ORG

August 18, 2009

United States Consulate General
US Embassy

Dear Honorable Consul:

The officers and members of the Liberian History, Education and Development, Inc. (LIHEDE) bring you sincere greetings and best wishes. LIHEDE is a US-based nonprofit organization located in Greensboro, North Carolina and Liberia, comprising of Liberians and friends of Liberia dedicated to promoting education and development initiatives in Liberia.

We write to inform you that Liberian and non-Liberian scholars, students, cultural artists are scheduled to converge on the campus of NC A&T in a few weeks to participate in the LIHEDE's 5th Anniversary Jubilee under the theme, **“Understanding Ourselves and Our History: A Call to Unity & Collective Development in Liberia.”** This event will get underway in Greensboro, North Carolina from Friday, August 21 through Sunday, August 23, 2009. The actual deliberations and related activities for the jubilee will take place on August 21 and 22. On Sunday August 23rd, a brunch will be available at the home of the Executive Director for guests who may have late Sunday evening flights. The Liberian government, including President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has been informed about the Jubilee.

The purpose of this letter is to request the issuance of visiting visas to the following Liberians we have invited and who have consented to participate in various roles including Presenters, Honorees, and Keynote Speakers

1. Honorable Vabah Gayflor, Gender Affairs & Development Minister,
2. Honorable Elizabeth Sele Mulbah, Commissioner, Governance Commission,
3. Dr. Emmet Dennis, President of the University of Liberia,
4. Mr. & Mrs. Tolbert Nyenswah, Assistant Director, National Malaria Program,
5. Mr. Emmanuel George
6. Ms. Robtel Neajai Pailey
7. Others

Upon the termination of their visit, these individuals will return to Liberia. Each of these individuals will be presenting a copy of this letter to you, together with other evidence to establish his/her close ties to his country, and to assure you that he/she will return to full time assignment in Liberia prior to the expiration of the stay in the United States

LIHEDE in collaboration with the Ministry of Health & Social Welfare of the Republic of Liberia, Liberia Environmental Watch, and Malaria International have been advocating for malaria control in Liberia since 2004. The resolution issued at the end of LIHEDE's

Malaria Symposium held on NC A&T Campus in 2005 was instrumental in shaping malaria policy and malaria prevention and control program in Liberia. A net result of this initiative was the grant of US\$37 million to Liberia by the U.S. government to fight malaria in Liberia under the U.S. President Malaria Initiative (PMI). LIHEDE has also

been heavily involved in educational activities in Liberia, by hosting seminars and preparing proposal for the teaching of Liberian history, culture, and traditions in Liberian schools, something that is currently absent from the Liberian educational system. The upcoming Jubilee is a continuation of this educational effort.

Thank you very much for considering our request and we prayerfully look forward to your support for this humanitarian cause aiming at writing the collective history that speaks to the oneness of our people. For more information, please visit us at www.lihede.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Syrulwa Somah', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Syrulwa Somah, PhD.
Executive Director, LIHEDE
lihede2003@yahoo.com

