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Greensboro, NC : 7/31/2006: An official of the Liberian History, Education and Development, Inc. (LIHEDE) has been appointed as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Liberia by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Dr. Emmett Dennis, Director of Social Services of LIHEDE and a Dean at Rutgers University in New Jersey, has accepted the appointment and expected to visit Liberia shortly to participate in a meeting of the Board.

While in Liberia, Dr. Dennis also anticipates to leverage the visit to follow-up on plans for the ensuing National Health Conference being organized by LIHEDE in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare through its National Malaria Control Program. Dr. Dennis serves as Co-Chair, along with Dr. Mariah Seton, on the Diaspora Planning Committee of the Conference, which is expected to be held on Liberia on December 14-19, 2006.

He will meet with other stakeholders of the Conference, including the Minister of Health, Dr. Walter Gwengale, Dr. Joel Jones, Director of the National Malaria Control program and representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Liberia.

Other projects of LIHEDE which will be given priority by the LIHEDE official while in Liberia is the Liberia Studies Program initiated in Liberia to provide college students the opportunity to study the dynamics and intricacies of Liberian history and culture and the impact on the socio-political development of Liberia. It is a degree grant program currently accepted for implementation by the AME University and AME Zion University in Liberia.

Dr. Dennis will meet the authorities of the University of Liberia to discuss the possibility of extending the program to the University. He is expected to leave the United States in early August and return within an adequate time frame to represent LIHEDE at an international symposium being organized by Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative, headed by Mary Robinson, former first female President of Ireland.

The Conference, which will be on September 12, 2006 in New York near the headquarters of the United Nations, is under the theme: *Global Solutions to Health Workers Migration*. LIHEDE was invited to the Conference following a discussion held between officials of the two organizations in New York in early June.

Meanwhile, Dr. Syrulwa Somah, has congratulated Dr. Dennis for his appointment to the Board of Trustees and assured him of LIHEDE support in his endeavor to serve his country in this new position. "We are very proud that one of our own can ascend to such noble position in the academic arena of Liberia," he added.

In a related development, plans are continuing for the successful hosting of the "Pre-National Health Conference Rally" expected to be held on the campus of the North Carolina A&T State University in

Greensboro , NC on September 30.

Dr. Somah is encouraging all members and officials of LIHEDE, Liberians and friends of Liberia to come to Greensboro to show their support for the eradication of malaria and for the National Health Conference in Liberia on **December 14-19, 2006** under the slogan: "**We Want No More Malaria in Liberia .**"

Signed:

Sam Togba Slewion

Director of Publications-LIHEDE