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March 9, 2009

Dr. Edward B. McClain Jr.
Minister of State for Presidential Affairs
Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs
Monrovia, Liberia

Dear Dr. McClain, Jr:

On behalf of the officers and members of the Liberian History, Education, & Development, Inc. (LIHEDE), permit us to extend to you and through our sincere greetings, best wishes, and congratulations to Her Excellency, Madame Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia on our nation's successful hosting of the recent International Women's Conference in Liberia.

The purpose of this letter is to apprise Her Excellency resident Sirleaf that LIHEDE remains dedicated to her calls for Liberians and Liberian organizations in the Diaspora to contribute to the reconstruction effort of Liberia. LIHEDE is committed to promoting and advancing the cultural heritage, history, development, peace, and security of the Republic of Liberia through scholarly research, and public education. Conversely, LIHEDE was organized in April 2003 in Greensboro, North Carolina, and it has since its inception held several seminars, symposiums, and workshops in the U.S. and Liberia on topical issues affecting Liberia, one of which is the malaria eradication campaign, "WE WANT NO MORE MALARIA IN LIBERIA." The LIHEDE malaria eradication campaign has resulted in Liberia getting millions of dollars from the UN Global Fund and the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) for malaria control and prevention activities in Liberia.

The LIHEDE malaria eradication efforts in Liberia and the LIHEDE Liberian Studies Program that kicked off in 2006 at two Liberian universities in Monrovia are still ongoing, but in preparation for celebrating the 5th founding anniversary of LIHEDE in 2009, LIHEDE has decided to host its first Jubilee on the history of the nation and people of Liberia. The Jubilee is devoted to uncovering the ethnic and linguistic links of Liberians, and how these links can be harnessed to manifest lasting peace, unity, reconciliation, and development in Liberia.

LIHEDE 5th Jubilee is scheduled to be held in Greensboro, North Carolina in August 21-22, 2009, under the theme: "Understanding Ourselves and Our History: A Call to Unity & Collective Development in Liberia," and it will look at the history, migration patterns, health, interethnic cooperation, linguistic tongues, and social, political, and legal institutions of the various ethnic groups of Liberia. LIHEDE believes that by institutionalizing our collective history, Liberians will well be on their way to creating the environment that will help Liberians learn more about themselves and cultivate a new sense of nationalism and history of our oneness that would propel national developments in Liberia and the world.

It is in honor of our history that we beseech Her Excellency President Johnson Sirleaf's support/endorsement for "Understanding Ourselves and Our History: A Call to Unity & Collective Development in Liberia. The three-day Conference is anticipated to be attended by over 500 persons, including government officials, ambassadors, presidents of Liberia higher institutions of learning, ministers, scholars, oral historians, authors, Liberian men and women organizations, cultural troops, students, clergymen, and more.

We therefore hope that our initiatives will deserve her administration involvement and attention because our nation has entered a new era, a new political horizon, where success and progress will begin with the collective showcasing of our talents and the finding of practical solutions to the many misinterpretation of our history facing us today. Together we can create a great legacy of immeasurable treasure of knowledge for Liberian history and the next generation of Liberians by written a collective and inclusive history of our people.

Thank you very much for considering our request. We trust and hope that you would identify with this worthy cause to rewrite the history of our nation. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully yours,

Syrulwa Somah, PhD
Executive Director, LIHEDE

Joseph Gbaba
Dr. Joseph Gbaba, Sr.
2009 LIHEDE 5th Jubilee Conference Chairman

