

## STATEMENT BY THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION OF LIBERIA (TRC) ON THE OCCASION OF LIBERIA'S 159TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

**On** the Occasion of the 159th Independence Anniversary of the Republic of Liberia, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), extends to Her Excellency, Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of Liberia, the Vice President, Honorable Joseph Boikai, Honorable members of the 52nd Legislature, officials of government, our partners national and international, and the people of Liberia, genuine felicitation, peace and prosperity as we forge ahead in oneness of purpose to foster respect for human rights, individual dignity and heal our land.

**The** TRC recognizes the unique role each citizen, partner and branch of government has to play in ensuring that Liberia's fledgling democracy thrives and calls on all alike to spare no effort, sacrifice, duty or responsibility to achieve the goal of democratizing Liberia and defending the principles which hold all men subordinate to the rule of law.

**The** TRC recognizes the separation of powers doctrine enshrined in the Liberian constitution and calls for greater coordination, and cooperation between these branches, especially the Executive and Legislature to advance the common good of the Liberian people and cultivate the democratic virtues of tolerance and mutual respect for divergent views of others.

**On** this day, the TRC calls on all Liberians to join the national call for repentance and renew their sense of patriotism and love for the nation so that with the carnage, pains and sufferings of the past behind us, Liberia can harness the energies of all her people and rise to nobler destiny.

## HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY LIBERIA

Jerome J Verdier, Sr. CHAIRMAN