



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 67
EXTENSION OF THE MORATORIUM ON PUBLIC LAND SALES

WHEREAS, current issues surrounding the sale of public land pose serious challenges to ensuring equal access, security of tenure and the rule of law with regards to public land transactions;

WHEREAS, there is recognition that issues involving public land are complex and entail current procedures that contributes to many of the problems and abuses associated with public land sales;

WHEREAS, there is a need to address and investigate these procedures, recognizing that there are technical social issues involved in identifying available public land, including the issuance of Tribal Certificates or Town Lot Certificates;

WHEREAS, the Land Commission is undertaking comprehensive reforms of the land sector and has completed a National Land Rights Policy which redefines Public Land and requires the formulation of new laws, regulations and procedures to guide transactions involving public land;

WHEREAS, the continuing issuance of Tribal Certificates and Town Lot Certificates for effecting public land sales, if left unchecked, will significantly hamper implementation of the National Land Rights Policy, specifically diminishing the benefits of customary land rights;

WHEREAS, because continuation of public land sales under current procedures, as outlined in the Public Land of 1973, will exacerbate problems of unequal access, insecurity of the tenure and the rule of law in the public land transactions, it is imperative that a moratorium be placed on the sale of public to allow for new law, regulations and procedures to be formulated; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that during the formulation of the new land laws, regulations and procedures, some public land transactions must be undertaken to secure land for public uses and development initiatives which will require thorough vetting procedures;

NOW THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me by the constitution and laws of the Republic of Liberia, I do declare and order:

1. The extension of the moratorium on public land sales and all transaction including the issuance of Tribal Certificates and Town Lot Certificates issued by Executive Order No. 53 on December, 20th 2013;
2. That the effective date of this moratorium is the date of its issuance and shall be effective for a period of one year;



3. That this moratorium applies to all individuals, government functionaries, local officials, traditional authorities' communities, groups, businesses and associations involved in public land transactions.
4. That this moratorium applies to all activities involving the issuance of Tribal Certificates by traditional or other governmental authorities or issuance of Town Lot Certificates by municipal authorities.
5. That the relevant ministries and agencies of government shall be responsible to closely monitor the situation to ensure compliance this moratorium.
6. That all Tribal Certificates or Town Lot Certificates issued by any local authority during the period of this moratorium shall be considered illegal and void.
7. That a nine-member screening committee is hereby constituted to vet all Public Land Deeds in the country and work in accordance with the Interim Guides and Procedures for the sale of Public Land (2011) recommended for the Land Commission. Members of the committee are:
 - I. Chairperson of the Land Commission- chair
 - II. Minister of Justice
 - III. Minister of Internal Affairs
 - IV. Minister of public Works
 - V. Minister of Agriculture
 - VI. Minister of Lands, Mines and Energy
 - VII. Chairman of the National Investment Commission
 - VIII. Managing Director of the Forestry Development Authority
 - IX. Executive Director of the Environment Protection Agency

This Executive Order shall take immediate effect.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA THIS 9th DAY OF
JANAURY, A.D. 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ellen Johnson Sirleaf".

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA