



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 66
EXTENSION OF THE TENURE OF THE LAND COMMISSION

WHEREAS, current issues surrounding land governance, including administration and management pose serious challenges to ensuring equal access, security of tenure, and the rule of law regarding land transactions within the Republic of Liberia;

WHEREAS, the Government recognizes the extent and seriousness of these land tenure issues, which require a move towards a more equitable system of land rights; a more modern and re-organized land administration system; and the development of the requisite capacity to evolve such a system;

WHEREAS, in an effort to address these the many challenges facing the land sector and improve the land tenure system, a Land Commission was established by an Act of the Legislature on August 9th, 2009, and charged with the mandate to propose, advocate and coordinate land policy, laws and programs in Liberia;

WHEREAS, the Commission has tenure of five (5) years as prescribed by the Act, and was officially launched for operation in March, 2010;

WHEREAS, since the establishment and operation of the Commission, significant progress has been made by the Commission in fulfilling its key mandate to undertake necessary policy and law reforms as evident by the following: (1) formulation, validation and adoption by the Government and people of Liberia of a National Land Rights Policy; (2) the drafting of a Land Rights Act, now before the National Legislature for enactment; (3) the formulation of a draft Land Administration Policy, which among several recommendations will declare Government's intention to establish a dedicated land agency; and (4) developing policies and drafting laws for Urban Land Use and Land Dispute Resolution, among others;

WHEREAS, a bill is being proposed by the Executive for Legislative consideration that would separate the land functions from several ministries and agencies and establish an agency with a focus on land, which will require a transitional period for the Commission and other agencies of Government to plan and undertake activities leading to the establishment and operational readiness of a new land agency;



WHEREAS, the Commission requires sufficient and uninterrupted time to ensure completion of relevant land policies and the drafting of related laws and regulations, and undertaking activities for transitioning into the institutional arrangements under a new land agency;

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

1. The extension of the tenure of the Land Commission by one additional year ending January 9, 2016;
2. That during the period of the extension of tenure, the Land Commission shall carry out its mandate, functions and duties, including the exercise of all rights and privileges that were afforded it under the Land Commission Act of A.D. 2009; and
3. That during the period of the extension of tenure, the Commission will work along other Government agencies to complete draft legislation and activities to facilitate the transition into a new land agency.

This Executive Order shall take immediate effect.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
THIS 7th DAY OF JANUARY, A.D.
2015.

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

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA