



THE PRESIDENT

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 96 INSTITUTING CERTAIN MEASURES TO STIMULATE ECONOMIC GROWTH

WHEREAS, the Liberian economy, having experienced a protracted downturn in activities and slow growth driven by the continuous and persistent declines in the prices of and demand for Liberia's primary exports of rubber, iron ore and timber;

WHEREAS, the adoption of the ECOWAS CET effectively limits Liberia's ability to use import duty as a tax policy instrument to protect local industries from unfair competition and dumping;

WHEREAS, this combination of events has contributed to the low level of business activities currently experienced in the economic outputs of the industrial, commercial and retail sectors;

WHEREAS, firms in all segments of the Liberian economy, including importers and exporters, face regulatory, administrative, and tax mandates and demands, which, during this period of protracted economic downturn, pose a burden heavier than would exist during periods of growth and expansion, and in many instances jeopardize the continuity of the business;

WHEREAS, continued health of the Liberian economy depends on expansion of investments by the private sector to strengthen economic growth, expand jobs creation; and stabilize incomes; and

WHEREAS, the prevailing economic and market conditions in Liberia highlight the need to develop tax policy and institute measures that incentivize and protect local industries;

GMH



WHEREAS, in the exercise of the Executive Power vested in the President by the Constitution, the President may issue Executive Orders in the public interest, either to meet exigencies or to address particular situations which cannot await lengthy Legislative processes;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Government of Liberia hereby issues this Executive Order instituting policy measures to stimulate economic growth by reducing administrative and business process requirements on businesses, aliens, concessionaires, and owners of real property:

- 1. Work Permits:** Work Permits shall be issued for a period up to five (5) years at the option of the holder or beneficiary. The fees for Work Permits shall be assessed by the Minister of Labor in consultation with the Minister of Finance and Development Planning; and shall be published by Regulations.
- 2. Residence Permits:** Residence Permits shall be issued for a period up to five (5) years at the option of the holder or beneficiary. The fees for Residence Permits shall be assessed by the Commissioner of the Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) in consultation with the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Finance and Development Planning; and shall be published by Regulations.
- 3. Collection of Work and Residence Permits Fees:** All fees for Work and Residence Permits shall be paid directly to the Liberia Revenue Authority for deposit into the Consolidated Account of the Government of Liberia.

G.M.W.F.



4. **Surface Rental Fees:** Henceforth, a Concessionaire shall be liable to pay Annual Surface Rental for unencumbered land only. The payment of Surface Rental Fees for unencumbered land shall be in accordance with the requisite provisions of the Liberia Revenue Code, as amended. The encumbrance referred to herein are those resulting from legal claims recognized by the Government of Liberia which prevents a contractor from using a portion of the land granted by Government in the Concession Agreement.
5. **Waiver of Real Estate Taxes, Customs Duties and Related Levies:** The Commissioner General of the Liberia Revenue Authority, in consultation with the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, may set forth a schedule of Waivers, in Regulation, to be reviewed annually by them for the granting of relief from assessment of penalties and interest related to Real Estate Taxes, Customs Duties and Related Levies including those under Administrative Review, Judicial Review, Audits or Examinations as a result of either or both failure to file or failure to pay such Taxes, Duties and Levies when due. Failure on the part of a Taxpayer to take advantage of a Waiver offered during an annual period shall preclude the Taxpayer from taking advantage of future annual Waivers for a period of 5 (five) years, during which period the Taxpayer is to be subject to sanctions, including the seizure and forfeiture of assets.
6. **Import Permit Declarations:** All Commercial Importers of goods into Liberia are exempted from seeking Import Permits and filing Import Permit Declarations, which heretofore, have been administered by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. However, Commercial Importers of goods must continue to notify the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in writing, of their intent to import, which written notification shall not be used by any Agency of Government, including the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, to circumvent this prohibition against seeking Import Permits and filing Import Permit Declarations.

GMLF



7. **Protection of Domestic Manufacturers and Producers:** As a further mitigating measure, the Minister of Finance and Development Planning shall, by Administrative Regulation, impose a Surtax on goods imported into the Country that are in competition with Local Manufacturers and Producers.
8. **Taxable Services for Sale of Air Tickets by International Transport Services:**

Travel Services: A supply of Travel Services occurs at the location where the travel originates, or the Passengers embark.

The Services of a Travel Agency or Travel Arranger, including the issuing of Tickets for travel that either originates within Liberia or to Passengers embarking within Liberia are Taxable; and the Rate is reduced from 10% to 7%.

For Tax purposes, Travel Services mean the base fare in money or kind, paid or payable for the supply by any person directly or indirectly excluding duties, levies, fees and charges paid or payable on or by reason of the supply reduced by any price discounts or rebates allowed and accounted for at the time of the supply.

Any consideration in kind is valued at the fair market value at the time of the supply.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA,
THIS 10th DAY OF APRIL, A.D. 2019

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "George Manneh Weah, Sr.".

George Manneh Weah, Sr.
PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA