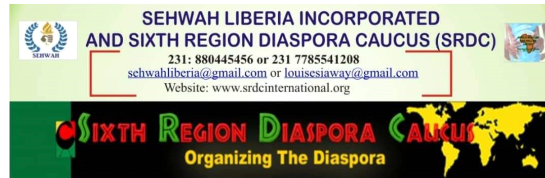




# SEHWAH LIBERIA INCORPORATED



## **Sixth Region Diaspora Caucus First International Summit (SRDC) held in Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa**

### **REPORT**

Centennial Memorial Pavilion

Monrovia, Liberia

**8<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

This summit was a great opportunity and learning experience, coupled with sensible experience on the challenges, situations and way forward for Liberia and Diaspora to connect the benefits for economic, cultural, social and educational development, policy on investment, and the opportunities to learn and improve the various spheres of sustainable development thru engagement economy.

First of all, I express a surge of appreciation and sincere gratitude to the Government of Liberia, H.E. Dr. George M. Weah, President, Hon. Nathaniel F. McGill, Minister, Ministry of State for Presidential Affairs, Hon. Florence Freeman Brandy, Superintendent Montserrado County, Hon. Emmanuel Lomax, Director General, National Documents and Records Agency, Hon. Trokon T. Kpui- Minister without Portfolio, Ministry of State, Hon. Nathaniel Toe – Diaspora Engagement, Ministry of State, Hon. Anthony J.W. Quiwonkpa – Deputy Minister/ Ministry of State for Diaspora Affairs, Cllr. Kula Jackson Commissioner for policy, Liberia Land Authority, Atty. Amos Garpou Director Legal Affairs, National Records and Documents Agency, among others.

Additionally, my gratitude and profound thanks go to the Sixth Region Diaspora Caucus (SRDC) for selecting Liberia to host the first SRDC International Summit.

Special Thanks also to Oragon Car Rental Services

CEO Africa Media Partner for covering the entire program.

Madam Alice Yeagban, former President of the Liberia Marketing Association, Rural Women, the Mano River Union women and the Economic Community of west Africa( ECOWAS) Women for their special Unity Dance. Last but not the least, my thanks and appreciation also to my result oriented and resourceful Sehwah Liberia Incorporated family: Mr. Cooper Mykers – Program Director, Mr. Darius D. Gweh – Administrator, Ms. Aletha Kpor – Coordinator, Ms. Laila B. Genoway – Youth Coordinator, Mr. Samuel Bondeh, Office Manager, Pst. Samuel Patta, Mr. Amos Diggs Togba, Pst. Chea, Mr. Edward Norman, Odell woods, Mrs. Morris and the Kitchen Staff for the wonderful meals during the 3 days program; and also to all our volunteers.

Regards,

Louise Warmenwoah .M. Siaway

CEO/Founder

**Sehwah Liberia Incorporated**

## **Investing in partnership for education**

On 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021, the SRDC International Summit sponsored by many organizations, focused on Liberia's historical connection to Diaspora “Bridging the Gap Between Ourselves”, Dual Citizenship, Land Ownership in Liberia, Agriculture Opportunities in Liberia, Investment Opportunities in Liberia.

During the day, conference participants had the opportunity to discuss topics such as land issues and dual citizenship.

Beginning the session, participants were presented with background information and discussion; questions and answers then followed; and information exchange processed.

## **The SRDC**

In his introductory address, Dr. Professor David Lawrence Horne gave a brief overview of SRDC, which was created in response to the invitation that the African Union made to the Diaspora African to come back home and join the effort to build a union, to build a coming-back-together, to build something that the world has not seen.

The SRDC (Sixth Region Diaspora Caucus) was born in Los Angeles, California in the aftermath of the April, 2006 Los Angeles AU-Diaspora Roundtable. The primary mission of the SRDC, among other things, is to help

organize the Diaspora for participation and membership in the African Union (AU); courtesy of the AU's 2003 Article 3(q) invitation to African descendants to join it as the 6th Region and help create the Union of African States/United States of Africa.

The SRDC works at establishing tangible collaborations and networks with Diaspora organizations on a global scale for joint projects towards that goal.

## **Sehwah Liberia**

Madam Louise Warmenwoah M. Siaway gave a brief history of the conference and its importance; and while the conference was being held at the Centennial Memorial Pavilion on Ashmun Street, Monrovia, and in which she then introduced Sehwah Liberia Inc.

Sehwah Liberia is an NGO with active presence in Liberia and fundraising drive organized in the USA. Sehwah is a source of inspiration for the good of humanity as well as the promotion of the understanding of Africa's unique cultural and regional heritage. Sehwah is pillared on partnership and collaboration in working together for success in all areas.

In Liberia, Sehwah fosters integration and sustainable development through the promotion of agriculture for agribusiness, education for capacity, building cultural heritage for creative industries, youth empowerment, rural women and girl's empowerment, and the promotion and development of sustainable skills.

Sehwah is an affiliate of SRDC in Liberia. Dr. Barryl Biekman, SRDC Netherlands Branch spoke on unity and African Union plan of Actions for the Diaspora,

## **Celebration of the 200 years**

The Love of Liberty – United us to strengthen the engagement with Stakeholders' in Africa and Diaspora reconnecting and building on the success of our history, present and the future.

The preamble to celebrate 200 years in the spirit of all forms of development activities throughout Liberia and putting our hands together, the action plan, contributions and effort of all types of sustainable development and helping to meet the sustainable development goals and principles of African Union's Diaspora engagement program.

There is an acknowledgement of the shared sense of urgency and ambition to achieve continuous engagements between African nations and African descendants in the Diasporas, the challenges posed in the realization of the engagements.

There is also recognition of the progress and collective efforts of African Union Member States, the African Union, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia to implement the Plan of Action to foster and sustain engagements with the African Diaspora to integrate the partnership and engagement into their various sustainable developments.

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual International Summit intended to further create linkages with the Diaspora and continue with the development actions that are specific to each African country, especially focusing on Liberia and the Mano River Union (a sub-regional grouping comprising of Liberia, Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone and the Ivory Coast).

By committing to this vision of the Diaspora program, the conference boosted the principles of its agenda by: The first Library to be built in Liberia (First Liberia Pan African Library to be built by African Diaspora).

- Going further through targeted investment in the resilience of people and communities with diverse backgrounds through equitable engagement;
- Going faster with our common heritage as a mechanism for whole-of-society partnerships that accelerate progress in addressing urgent local and regional challenges like education, inequality, poverty, health, ignorance, climate change etc; and
- Coming together by creating channels that promote sustainable development, education, entrepreneurship, agriculture, particularly for women and girls and youth, rural communities,

## **The SRDC International Summit**

The purpose of this SRDC first annual International Summit in Liberia was to bring together participants of diverse social, economic, political, cultural, backgrounds, by sharing a common background in the African heritage. Participants were drawn from various parts of world, including the Americas, Europe, South America, Central America, Caribbean Islands, other regions and in Africa, especially sub-regional MRU.

The conference platform was to exchange practical ideas, and prescribe and escalate Action Plans to further strengthen the Diaspora and create practical road-map for the Diaspora investment in Liberia and the sub-region.



The gathering was climaxed with resonating speeches, cultural performances and tours, bilateral engagements at all levels including business and entrepreneurship, culture heritage, Not-for-Profit collaboration and partnership, citizenship, etc.

At the close of the Summit, action plans and road-map framework were escalated and developed; to be followed up in the subsequent months and years.

## **Significance of Liberia to host the SRDC 13<sup>th</sup> annual Summit**

Historically, Liberia served as the second most important site for the repatriation of ex-slaves from the United States of America, which occurred mainly in the late 18th century to mid-19th century.

Liberia and Sierra Leone were both established by former slaves who were repatriated to Africa within a 28-year period. In 1821, the American Colonization Society founded the colony of Liberia south of Sierra Leone as a homeland for freed U.S. slaves outside of British jurisdiction.

And when the ex-slaves arrived on the African shores, the Providence Island, situated in Monrovia, Liberia's capital was their temporal homeland.

The Providence Island can be described as an interesting period in the history of Liberia and is very symbolic as a testament of how freed slaves forged nationhood out of their forced calamity upon gaining freedom when slavery was abolished. This site is characterized by a cement pillar and concrete floor believed to be the first Concrete work in the history of the country, an ancient water well and an old landing docking platform for incoming canoes and ships.

The rusted heavy steel bar of the dock are partly buried into the Montserrado river today. In addition to these elements, is the oldest cotton tree, (250) years according to history of the State. The site is of historical and cultural significance in the history of West Africa as the Island was one of the first places freed slaves landed on January 1, 1822. The summit reconnected Diaspora Africans with the historical significance of the site.

## **Plan of Actions for the Summit:**

Setting up of a committee (USA, Liberia, Europe, and Asia) and other necessary regions where African Diaspora interest can be founded and included.

- The initializing major preparatory activity for the Liberia pan African Library and the future
- The committee will serve as the general coordinating body for future engagement
- Develop, and specifically defining the responsibilities of the committee.
- Committees will take on more specific responsibilities, in thematic areas of the preparations, execution and strengthening of the engagement between Africa and African in the Diaspora.
- It will prove necessary for the committee to organize an initial consultative dialogue platform to define the objectives and conclude with the development of a general road-map.

## Summit Particulars

Facilitator/speaker	Location/Designation	Task
Bishop Emmanuel Freeman Sr.	Impact International Church Police Academy Road, Paynesville	Opening Prayer
Hon. Emmanuel A. Lomax,	Director General, CNDRA	welcome remarks
Madam Louise Warmenwoah McMillian Siaway,	CEO/Founder Sehwah Liberia Inc	Introduction of delegations
Dr. Barryl Biekman	Coordination	Netherland
Hon. Anthony Quiwonkpa,	Deputy Minister of State for Diaspora Affairs Special	Remarks on behalf of the H. E. George M. Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia
Hon. Florence Freeman Brandy	Superintendent Montserrado County	Welcomes the delegations to the county and city of Monrovia

## Day Two - Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Dr. David Lawrence Horne, Executive Director Introduction of the SRDC International Summit history and purpose

### Presentation I:

- **Dr. Luther Tarpeh**

Facilitated the discussion and invited panelists to reflect on different aspects of history, and its relevance was particularly emphasized on Liberia Historical Connections –Bridging the Gap between Ourselves followed by Q/A

- **Hon. J. Gbleh-Bo Brown, Senator of Maryland County**

Whether dual citizenship should be allowed in Liberia? Particularly with regard to dual citizenship within and loyalty to a certain nation-state could be perceived as exclusive or viewed in a global framework of human, civil and political rights. The answer to the question of whether dual citizenship helps or hinders integration crucial

depends on both how one defines integration and how one views the mutual relationship between naturalization and integration. Dual Citizenship followed by Q/A.

### **Day Three: Wednesday 11/10/2021**

<b>Facilitator/Speaker</b>	<b>Designation/Location</b>	<b>Session/Task</b>
Cllr. Kula Jackson,	Commissioner for Policy, Liberia Land Authority	The Land Ownership Q/A session
Atty. Amos Garpou, II.	Legal Advisor Center for National Documents and Records Agency (CNDRA)	Q/A session: Land Administration and Acquisition. Agriculture Opportu- nity in Liberia as business. Investment opportunity in Liberia.

### **Day Four: Thursday/ Friday November 12, 2021**

- Presentation of Deed by Hon. Emmanuel Lomax
- Director General of Center for National Documents and Records Agency
- Signing of the Memorandum of Agreement/GOL and SRDC/Sehwah

### **EXPECTED DELEGATIONS THAT COULD NOT MAKE IT TO THE SUMMIT DUE COVID-19 PROTOCOL**

<b>Guests</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Country</b>
His Imperial Majesty the Ooni of Ife,	Oba Enitan Adeyeye Ogunwusi (Ojaja II)	Federal Republic of Nigeria
Hon. Oliver Bergoz,	CEO / GBO Ltd,	Guabeloupe
Councilor Maria Lovell MBE	First Ghanaian female Mayor	Luton, UK
Her Excellency, Mrs. Fatima Jabbe Bio	First Lady	Republic of Sierra Leone

All the committee members were very supportive of the activities, participating criteria, etc.

### **Tours of Guests to historical sites**

#### **National Museum of Liberia:**

The National Museum of Liberia is located in downtown Monrovia. It was initially housed in the First Executive Mansion on Ashmun Street. It was established by an Act of the National Legislature in 1958 under the

administration of Liberia's 18th President, Dr. William V.S. Tubman. The building in which the Museum is now housed was formerly the House of Representatives and also became the Supreme Court of Liberia. Several Government of Liberia institutions took shelter in this building before the museum was re-located there.

### **The Providence Baptist Church**

The Providence Baptist Church is referred to as the cornerstone of the nation. Historical accounts suggest that Rev. John Courtney of the First Baptist Church of Richmond, Virginia, in 1807 became the forerunner for the establishment of the chapter of the Providence Baptist Church in Liberia. In 1821 Carey along with Collin Teague and their families under the African American missionary Society, on board the Nautilus to Liberia, founded the Providence Baptist Church in Monrovia. Ground breaking for the construction of this edifice was subsequently done at this site.

### **Providence Island**

PROVIDENCE ISLAND- located in downtown Monrovia, is the Island that gave birth to Liberia's founding in 1821. It was here in 1821 that the first free slaves from the United States of America landed. The island is surrounded by the Stockton Creek and the Montserrado River.

Providence Island –historically known as Dozoa Island from the Gola vernacular, was the site of the first successful settlement of American freemen of color under the auspices of the American Colonization Society (A.C.S.). It was here on this Island that the Society's two agents, Robert F. Stockton and Eli Ayers negotiated with local Chiefs to secure a place for settlement. The colonizers established the first settlement in Liberia on Dozoa Island, which they named Perseverance Island and later re-named Providence Island.

In the early seventies, the Island was transformed into a tourist attraction and to host national and public programs. In 2017, the Liberian Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism nominated the Island for inclusion as a World Heritage Site.

### **Visited the Executive Mansion at the President's over office**

The Executive Mansion brimming with knowledge offering the world first of its kind embark on an enriching experience of history that covers a series of past president, each has a unique aspect of their leadership. Many

photos exhibitions of past leaders. The visit was unique treatment to the spirit of the United Liberia and it leaders, share knowledge and inspiring journey.

### Day Five - Friday, November 12, 2021

Activities	Facilitator(s)
Registration and Bread fast	All Participants/Guest
Land Deed presentation to SRDC / Sehwah Liberia Inc.	The National Records, Documents agency Director Hon. Emmanuel Lomax
<b>Remarks</b>	Deputy Minister of State Diaspora Affairs
Signing of Memorandum of Agreement GOL. And SRDC/Sehwah Liberia	Government of Liberia and SRDC/Sehwah Liberia • Hon. Emmanuel A. Lomax- Director General (CNDRA)
<b>“The taste of Liberia “ (Liberian Dishes)</b>	Mrs. Laura Pritchard
NETWORKING TIME	
Guest retire at the hotel	

### 5. Conference Speakers .

- Hon. J. Gbleh-Bo Brown – Dual Citizenship, Senator of Maryland County
- Dr. J. Luther Tarpeh – Historical Connection Bridging the Gap between Ourselves” CEO/Founder, Best Brains Academy Technology International University
- Atty Amos Garpou - Land Administration/ Acquisition Director Legal Affairs, National Records and Documents Agency
- Cllr. Kula Jackson Commissioner for policy, Liberia Land Authority
- Hon. Janice Cooper – Minister of Agriculture
- Hon. Molewleh B. Gray Chairman, National Investment Commission
- Mrs. Agatha Thompson, Master of Ceremony

### 6. Many thanks for their support

- Mr. Frank Norman delegation Jeni entertainment Atlanta, Georgia
- Mrs. Shewanda Norman, delegation Jeni Entertainment, Atlanta, Georgia
- Mr. Peter Teah –Oregon Car Rental Company, Many thanks for the mini bus.

- Dr. J. Luther Tarpeh – Historical Connection Bridging the Gap between Ourselves” CEO/Founder, Best Brains Academy Technology International University
- All the Arts Dealers that exhibited their products at the conference center

## **The 13<sup>th</sup> High Schools Principals attended the 4<sup>th</sup> day’s event.**

- District # 1: John Wesley Pearson High School – Ganta City, Nimba County
- District # 2: Sanniquellie Central High School – Sanniquellie City, Nimba County
- District # 3: Kahn High School – Kahnplay City, Nimba County
- District # 5: Butuo High School - Butuo City, Nimba County
- District # 7: Bahn High School - Bahn City, Nimba County
- G.W. Gibson High School, Capitol Bypass - Montserrado County
- Paynesville Community High School – Paynesville City, Montserrado County
- Lamco Laypaye High School – Kakata City, Margibi County
- Gbovee High School – Gbarnga City, Bong County
- Gboulay High School – Gboulay Town, Nimba County
- Police Academy Public School, Paynesville City, Montserrado County
- Ann Sandell High School – Paynesville City, Montserrado County
- Tubman High School, 12<sup>th</sup> Street Sinkor, Montserrado County

Book drives by SRDC chapter Charleston, South Carolina Headed by Mr. Joseph H. Palmer.

The Books distribution to All Government High Schools in 73 districts in Liberia



## List of Guests:

NAME	COUNTRY	States	CITIES
George Gibbs Mack	USA	South Carolina	Charleston
Jessica Deneshure Harrison	USA	Georgia	Atlanta
Nichol Lashaun Davis-Brown	USA	Florida	St. Petersburg
Donia A. Whaley	USA	South Carolina	Charleston
Joseph Harrold Palmer	USA	South Carolina	Charleston
Jeffery D. Nickelson	USA	South Carolina	South Carolina
Dr. David L. Horne	USA	California	Los Angeles
Frances Lajeane Barcliff	USA	New York	New York
Pauline Clay	USA	California	Los Angeles
Line, Juliette Jeanine Hilgros	Caribbean Region	Guadeloupe Island	Guadeloupe
Edward Prince De Costa Miller	USA	Georgia	Living in Netherlands
Frank Norman	USA	Georgia	Atlanta
Shewanda Norman	USA	Georgia	Atlanta
Cletus Prince	West Africa	Nigeria	Lagos
Laura Pritchard	USA	Michigan	Detroit
John Henderson	USA		
Dr. Barryl Biekman	Coordination	Netherland	













**Ma Maisha Washington – Salute to you our fallen Hero.**

Scholarship in the honor of Madam Maisha Washington for the children of Liberia and other parts of Africa.

**Budget and Funding for the hall was free donated by government of Liberia for the usage of the SRDC first conference in Africa.**

· Fuel for the hall	\$500.00
· Water for the hall	\$280.00
· Hall cleaning after program	\$250.00
· PA System for the hall	\$250.00
· Media organization	\$250.00
· Cultural performer	\$250.00
· Protocol airport	\$500.00
· Food, water and soft drinks	\$1575.00
· Gas to and from airport and program site	\$1000.00
· Prince Nigeria round trip and accommodation	\$1000.00
· Banners and program	\$1000.00
· Uniforms	\$500.00
· Misc.	\$500.00
Total	\$8355.00

**Donation from others:**

· Nvaskie Konneh	\$250.00
· Kalifala Donzo	\$250.00
· Dr. David Horne	\$500.00
· Nichol Davis Brown	\$1000.00
· Ms. Frances Lajeon Barcliff	\$250.00
· Mr. Joseph Palmer	\$100.00
Total	\$2350.00

**SRDC Expenses:**


Guest House 3 units at 100.00 per day	\$3000.00
Bus Rental at 80.00 per day 6 days	\$480.00
Misc. Gas and driver	\$250.00
Total	\$3730.00



**SIXTH REGION DIASPORA CAUCUS**  
Organizing The Diaspora

**13<sup>th</sup>**


**Annual Sixth Region Diaspora Caucus 2021  
International Summit**  
November 8 - November 11, 2021  
Monrovia, Liberia

**ROYAL FATHER OF THE DAY  
AND CO-LAUNCHER**  
H.I.M. OBA ADEYEYE ENITAN  
BABATUNDE  
Ode of life



**H.E. Mrs. Fatima Jabbe Bio**  
FIRST LADY, REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE



**SPECIAL STATMENT**  
**H.E. George M. Weah, Sr.**  
President of the Republic of Liberia



**H.E. Mrs. Clar M. Weah**  
FIRST LADY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA




**SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR**  
**Councillor Maria Lovell MBE**  
First Ghanaian African Female Mayor of Luton



**The African  
Diaspora  
is Coming  
to Liberia**



**Dr. David L. Horne**  
Executive Director, SRDC



**HOST**  
**HON. LOUISE W. SIWAY**  
Former Minister of Culture, Liberia  
Founder of SEHWAH Liberia



**Mr. Olivier OBERGOZ**  
Guadeloupe, Caribbean Island  
CEO of GB O. Ltd

**SUMMIT SCHEDULE**

**Arrivals in Liberia:**  
Saturday, Nov. 6 - Sunday, Nov. 7  
**Summit Conferences & Workshops:**  
Monday, Nov. 8 - Thursday, Nov. 11  
**Visitation and Tour:** Friday, Nov. 12  
**Closing:** Saturday, Nov. 13

**WORKSHOPS:**  
LIBERIA LIBRARY PROJECT | DUAL CITIZENSHIP | BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT | AGRICULTURAL PROJECT | LAND OWNERSHIP | SRDC'S CORE MISSION AND PLAN

**CHIEF HOST:**  
GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA



**HOST:**  
SEHWAH LIBERIA

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