



UNION OF LIBERIAN ASSOCIATIONS IN THE AMERICAS (ULAA)

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

GOL INVITES ULAA TO LIBERIAN DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT HOMECOMING

GAITHERSBURG, Md., January 4, 2016 - The Government of the Republic of Liberia has invited President Wilmot W. Kunney and the Union of Liberian Associations in the Americas (ULAA) to a homecoming program slated for January 15, 2016 in Monrovia. In an invitation to the ULAA President signed by the Minister of State without Portfolio, Hon. Sylvester M. Grigsby, the Homecoming program is to afford Diaspora Liberians and fellow Liberians at home to engage in a sit down summit to discuss pertinent issues that confront the two groups, with the hope of finding a common ground for resolution and tolerance.

“The Cabinet endorsed the incubation of the Diaspora Affairs Unit (DAU) within the Ministry of State in 2010 with the mandate to ensure broad stakeholder involvement, coordinate, align and harmonize all donor activities for capacity development through Diaspora Engagement,” said Hon. Grigsby. According to Minister, the LDEP was approved in 2012 by the World Bank, and it should have kicked off in 2013 but delayed due to turnover at the Ministry and the 2014 EBOLA health crisis.

It can be recalled that the issue of engaging fellow Liberians in Liberia and the Government of Liberia was part of the Union advocacy. As a result, the Diaspora Affairs Unit within the Ministry of State was formally established. Therefore, the National Administration deems it expedient to make full representation at the Homecoming discussions in Monrovia.

Meanwhile, President Kunney will be holding a meeting with the National Leadership Council to solicit input into ULAA's position on several issues expected to be discussed in Monrovia.

In a related development, President Kunney will be making a policy statement to member organizations, stakeholders and the entire US Diaspora Liberian community in the coming weeks. The statement is expected to focus on critical issues here in the Diaspora and in Liberia, and the future of ULAA.

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