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President Sirleaf Urges African Women to Collaborate

Liberia Government (Monrovia)

NEWS

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Monrovia

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has addressed the opening session of an African Democracy Forum in Monrovia, with a call on African women to take charge of their own destiny. The President observed that African women are on an irreversible course, but urged them to collaborate to confront the challenges facing women throughout the continent.

The President observed that the lack of adequate resources and an institutional framework is hampering the promotion of the cause of women. There is a need, the Liberian leader said, to raise resources to support the cause of women and issues which confront them.

One meaningful way of addressing some of the challenges, An Executive Mansion release quoted the President as saying, is to create networks across countries, with the view of sharing experiences from one country to the other. Institutionalizing the network, President Johnson Sirleaf said, would be helpful. The Liberian President was addressing the opening session of the Africa Democracy Forum on Monday.

She informed the participants of efforts being made by her government to bridge the gap between the male and female population by introducing specific programs to support education for girls. The Liberian leader, however, noted that there was a need to introduce more literacy programs that would provide the basis for market women to read and write.

'Giving them an opportunity to go to school would enable them to do the basic things and enhance their own capacity,' the President emphasized.

The 3-day Forum, under the theme 'Changing Africa's Political Culture Through Women's Political Participation,' has brought together women activists and politicians from several African countries including South Africa, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Nigeria, Togo, Guinea, Senegal, Gambia, Liberia, Mali among others.

Meanwhile, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has taken a member of the visiting American business delegation on a guided tour of the Nancy Doe Market in Sinkor. Renowned actress and humanitarian, Cicely Tyson, who has expressed interest in the President's initiatives to improve the welfare of market women, accompanied the President Monday afternoon along with other members of the delegation.

One of America's renowned Comedian and Actors, Chris Tucker is also in Liberia as a member of the Robert Johnson business delegation.

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