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U.S. Government Provides Additional Funding for Security Sector Reform

Liberia Government (Monrovia)

NEWS

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The Government of the United States has provided 45- million United States dollars to support Liberia's Security Sector Reform.

According to an Executive Mansion release, the additional funding is a direct result of President Johnson Sirleaf's recent appeal to the U.S. Administration and Congress while in the United States, for increased funding to enhance the rebuilding of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL).

It is part of the United States Urgent Supplemental Appropriations Bill recently signed into law by President George W. Bush.

The bill also includes approximately 35-million United States dollars for the rebuilding the Liberian Armed Forces, 5-million United States dollars to support the training of a Quick Reaction Unit within Liberia's National Police Force and another 5- million United States dollars for equipping the Protective Detail for the President. The latest funding is in addition to the significant bilateral assistance Liberia has received from the United States on an annual basis since the ascendancy of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf over a year ago.

In a related development, three counties in Southeastern Liberia are to benefit from assistance being provided through funding recently made available by the German government during President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's recent visit to that country.

Grand Gedeh, River Gee and Sinoe are to receive additional funding to support the country's reintegration and reconstruction programs being implemented through the extension of an agricultural reconstruction program presently being implemented by the German Agro Action initiative in the three counties. The program is part of Germany's Financial and Technical cooperation, as well as a multilateral initiative yet to be determined.

Germany recently announced more than 14-million dollars in additional funding for Liberia to support ongoing reconstruction and development programs in the country. The announcement came at the end of a meeting between President Johnson Sirleaf and Germany officials during the President's recent visit to that country.

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