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The Government of Norway Asks Govt to Identify More Areas for Norwegian Assistance

Liberia Government (Monrovia)

NEWS

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The government of Norway has asked the Liberian Government to determine what level of assistance is needed to enable that country provide further assistance to Liberia. At a meeting on Tuesday with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf at the Foreign Ministry, Norway pledged its continuous support towards the country's development initiatives. Norway has also pledged to open an embassy in Liberia soon.

According to an Executive Mansion release, the assurances were made on Tuesday by the Norwegian Minister for Development, Mr. Erik Solheim, when he paid a courtesy call on President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

Accompanied by Liberia's Foreign Minister, Ambassador George Wallace, Minister Solheim said his government was interested in providing more support toward Liberia's emergency power program as well as other areas which may be identified for additional assistance. The Norwegian envoy said, the overall objective is to assist President Johnson-Sirleaf and the Liberian people in rebuilding the country.

President Johnson-Sirleaf, in response, briefed Minister Solheim on her government's four pillars for its development agenda. The President said Liberia's debt issue, represents a constraint in the country's ability to adequately move forward. President Johnson Sirleaf thanked the Norwegian Government for its assistance to the electric Power Program, but added that the program is still in an emergency phase. The ultimate goal, the President said is to find a permanent solution to address power shortage in the country.

The President emphasized that her vision for the country is to move Liberia to the manufacturing process in areas of the country's comparative advantage.

Also present at the meeting were Lands, Mines and Energy Minister Dr. Eugene Shannon, Planning and Economic Affairs Minister Dr. Toga McIntosh and Presidential Economic Advisor Dr. Lawrence Clarke.

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