



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **LIBERIAN HEAD OF STATE ENDS 2-DAY VISIT TO SIERRA LEONE**

*Freetown, Sierra Leone* – President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and Chairman of the National Transitional Government in Liberia, Gyude Bryant today noted “the significant progress” being made in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and commended the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), African Union, European Union and United Nations for their role in this achievement.

In a joint communiqué signed by Liberia’s Minister of Justice and Sierra Leone’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation following the end of a two-day visit here by Chairman Bryant and a high-powered delegation, including his Minister of Justice, Kabinneh Janneh, they also urged governments and organizations that had pledged to Liberia’s reconstruction to make good their promise.

The two Heads of State discussed bilateral, sub-regional and regional issues, stressing their “desire to continue regular political consultations”. They renewed their commitment to revive the Mano River Union and called for the “enhancement and scrupulous enforcement” of the Non-aggression and Security Cooperation Treaty between Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone signed in 1986 and put in place “appropriate measures” to strengthen security along their borders.

The Liberian leader also expressed satisfaction with the progress of disarmament in his country. More than 60,000 combatants had disarmed of large caches of arms and ammunition. He had been assured by the leadership of the Liberians United for Democracy and Reconciliation (LURD) that squabbling in its ranks would not impact on the ongoing disarmament process. Furthermore, elections in his country would be held next year as enshrined in the Accra Agreement.

Also today, Chairman Bryant announced that Thomas Brima had been appointed the new Liberian Ambassador to Sierra Leone; the first in a long time.

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