

Introduction

We are pleased and honored to proffer our profound thanks and appreciation to Her Excellency, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, for our continued preferment to pursue the noble national task of administering the affairs of the Ministry of Transport during the year 2015.

The Ministry is responsible to administer and implement the Transport law; regulate the compulsory Third Party Liability Insurance Law of 1972 as contained in Volume VI of the Liberian Code of Law Revised Chapter 4 of Title 38, expand all aspects of Transportation; Land, Rail, Air and Sea. Supervise and regulate the development and standard of all modes of transportation and provide reliable up to date statistics in the Transport Sector.

Achievements

During the reporting period, “The Mandate and Functional Review” of the Ministry of Transport was completed and a Draft Act to Amend the Law establishing the Ministry was prepared and is currently under review by the relevant authorities.

With the collaboration of stakeholders and international partners, the Ministry of Transport submitted through the Office of the President an Axle Load Control Bill to protect the Government's investments in road infrastructure with primary concern on all newly constructed roads. We are pleased to report that the Axle Load Control Act submitted in December 2014, successfully passed both Houses in October 2015 pending signing into law by the Chief Executive. The Act seeks to limit the amount of load that heavy vehicles can carry to avoid deterioration of the roads. This Act is tailored to enforce an ECOWAS agreement among member states to harmonize the weight of vehicles carrying heavy loads across West Africa and to set limits on amount of load per axle as well as the weight and dimensions of the various categories of vehicles.

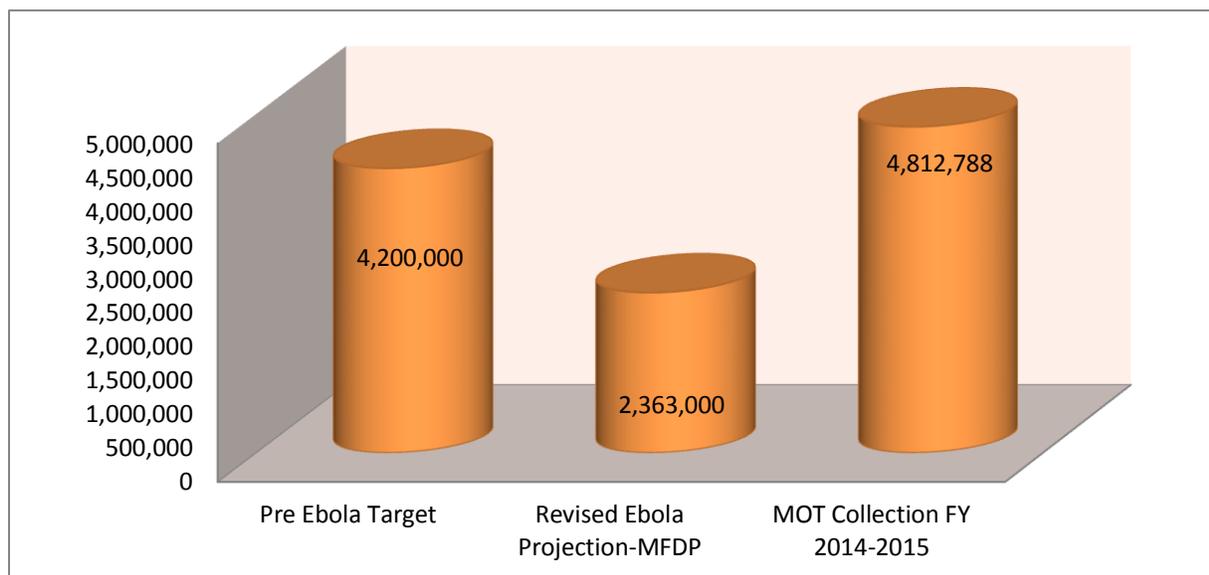
The Ministry has developed a draft Regulation detailing out modalities for the implementation of the Axle Load Control Act. There are also plans to undertake the following for protection of investment in roads: (1) Set up a system of weigh bridges on key roads in Liberia in order to enforce the new controls., (2) Establish a Technical Support Unit to provide technical support/advise to the Ministry of Transport on the issuance of regulations and policies and monitor compliance, (3) Recruit a private sector firm to provide equipment and manage Axle Load operations countrywide, (4) Hire Consultancy Service to develop a national Axle Load policy/strategy (control strategies, acquisition & installation of equipment, enforcement, management, sensitization, monitoring & evaluation, etc), (5)

Establish and operationalize the multi-stakeholder Working Group on axle load control, (6) Build capacity of government agencies – including the recruitment of an axle load control expert to support with implementation, (7) Strengthen the multi-stakeholder Working Group to manage the change process, and (8) Undertake study tour to other countries in the region to understudy their road safety management system to serve as a basis for managing consultancy services to replicate same in Liberia.

The Ministry received and held successful discussions with a delegation from the ECOWAS Commission on infrastructure in June, 2015. The team identified and agreed to provide technical and other support to the Ministry in the implementation of the following priority intervention projects to enhance the Ministry’s drive to reform the transport sector of Liberia: (1) Axle Load Control, (2) Road Safety Management and control, (3) The setting up of a stand-alone department of motor vehicle and driver’s licensing, (4) Transport Sector Institutional Reform and (5) Studies into other transport related activities.

The Ministry Initiated and undertook the process of the first ever competitive bidding process in 15 years, for the production and supply of Motor Vehicles License plates. New plates with new designs have been introduced on the market for the next 5 years with key features which include alpha numeric numbering, retro reflective sheeting with manufactured embedded security features. New internal measures were taken to assure fairness in the distribution of plates and orderliness in how they are processed. The Ministry now has a new system in place to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery.

MOT REVENUE PERFORMANCE AND PROJECTION SUMMARY					
Activities	Pre Ebola Target	Revised Ebola Projection-MFDP	MOT Collection FY 2014-2015	Performance Variance	Proposed FY 2015-2016 Projection
Driver License; Vehicle Registration; Insurance Stickers; Eligibility Certificates	4,200,000	2,363,000	4,812,788	2,449,788	5,500,000
Total	4,200,000	2,363,000	4,812,788	2,449,788	5,500,000



On Friday, October 1, 2015, the Ministry participated in the inauguration and dedication of a light domestic aircraft of the Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). The faith based organization which operates light aircraft services to rural communities in several counties around the world will also be providing medical evacuation and charter services amongst other areas across Liberia including RIA, Greenville, Sasstown, Grandcess, Harper, Foya, Voinjama, Zwedru and Sabo Sweaken.

In an effort to implement the Early Warning System project in Liberia through funding from UNDP/GEF, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with the Liberian Airport Authority (LAA) for the renovation of a building at the Roberts International Airport which will serve as the Head Office of the proposed new National Meteorological Center (NMC). The MoU also covers training, equipment upgrade and replacement support to the RIA. The design for the NMC was finalized by the UNDP to begin procurement activities leading to award of contract for construction.

Meanwhile, a visit was made to the World Meteorological Agency (WMA) and Nigeria Meteorological Agency (NIMET) headquarters in Abuja and the Regional Training Center (RTC) in Lagos to explore the possibilities of training of Liberia's Hydro-Met staff. The purpose of the visit was to seek long term collaboration with the NIMET for technical assistance. Thirty (30) persons have been identified from

different stakeholder's institution including the MOT, MLME, MOA and the RIA for various training programs in hydro-meteorology in Nigeria. Additionally, a list of equipment totaling US\$3,800,000.00 is being purchased in view of the setup of MET stations around the country. Sites have been identified for placement of hydrological monitoring stations in the lower catchment of the six major rivers of Liberia. It is our hope to establish the first Liberia National Meteorological Center during the 1st quarter of 2016.

The Ministry continues its supervision and monitoring of the implementation of the compulsory Motor Third Party Liability Insurance scheme. The third party Liability (TPL) scheme was enacted to guarantee protection for roads accident victims of death, bodily injury and property damage of the third party with fair and prompt compensation.

Since its re-launch in January 2014, the Ministry has placed high emphasis on claims payment. As a result, more than 87% of the claims reported thus far were settled during the period under review. This unprecedented level of compliance by insurance companies has reduced fears and boost confidence among motorists. Subsequently, insurance companies are now experiencing a jump in the number of motorists that seek insurance voluntarily, which is a manifestation of the renewal of public trust and confidence in the insurance industry.

To date, at least more than 50% of vehicles plying the streets of Liberia particularly Monrovia and its environs have third party liability insurance coverage as required by our laws. The Ministry is currently concluding discussions with stakeholders in the sector to insure commercial motorcycles.

Some of the key Administrative Regulations being reviewed and/or issued by MOT during 2015 include:

- JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION: "Official fees structure for vehicle registration" (MOT/MFDP)
- JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION: "Commercial Transport fare structure for Monrovia and its environ" (MOT/MOC)
- ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION "Certification of garages" (MOT)
- ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION "Moratorium on the importation of commercial motorbikes" (MOT/MOJ)

We continue to remain active in discussions pertaining to key priority projects as a member of the inter-ministerial council and/or the Board of the Liberia Airport

Authority for the process leading to the rehabilitation of the runway of the Roberts International Airport, as well as the proposal for the construction of a modernized airport terminal which we recommit to collaborate with other stakeholders to accomplish before the end of this Administration.