

Press Briefing
Minister of Transport
December 31, 2014

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press:

I bring you greetings from the Ministry of Transport Family and wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

Our intention for coming out here today is to inform you of recent activities of the Ministry of Transport some of which could have an impact on your lives and activities in the near future. The Ministry of Transport intends from time to time to give you regular updates on its activities since the sector is so vital in our lives and to our national economy.

Early in December of this year, Her Excellency the President forwarded to the National legislature, the proposed Axle Load Law for its review, deliberations and passage into law. This proposed new law is intended to enact certain measures that will control the usage of our streets and highways to avoid the fast destruction of our much needed road infrastructure. The new law when passed, will stop certain kinds of vehicles from using certain roads, and will restrict the amount of load a vehicle can carry based on the number of Axles the vehicle has. Certain regulations will be promulgated by the Ministry of Transport immediately after the passage of the new bill to make the provisions of the bill more effective. We intend to make additional information available to the general public as to how the regulations will be effected.

The Ministry of Transport is also working out the modalities for the procurement of a contractor to automate our vehicle registration and driver licensing processes to improve our record keeping and avoid revenue losses due to illegal duplication of vehicle registration documents. The new computerized system will link the various ports of entries in Liberia to our central database and make the tracing of vehicles in Liberia easier to implement. This national database will also be available to the law enforcement arm of Government to effectively monitor vehicle activities in Liberia.

Early in the New Year, the Ministry of Transport intends to introduce new design of vehicle license plates and registration stickers for use in the country for the next five years. When the new plates and registration stickers are introduced early in 2015, all vehicles in Liberia will be required to change their plates and stickers to the new design. The plates will also have stickers that will be placed on the vehicles to identify the county of residence of the vehicle owner. The new plates will have reflective sheeting and certain additional security features to avoid duplication. The Ministry of Transport is also collaborating with the Liberian National Police in the rollout and enforcement of the new vehicle license plates and stickers and other key stakeholders including (the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and the Ministry of Justice) have been consulted as part of this process.

Later during 2015, the Ministry of Transport, as part of the national decentralization process, will be redesigning its offices outside of Monrovia in order to extend vehicle registration services to Bong, Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties. These offices will be fully equipped to carry on the processes and avoid people in the distant counties having to drive long distances to assess the services.

Thank you very much and we will take a few questions