

Her Excellency, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
President of the Republic of Liberia
The Chairman and Members of the Board of Directors of the NTA
Chairman of the Senate house committee on Transport
Members of the Cabinet
Honourable Upjit Jeety, Honorary Consul of India to Liberia
Other Officials of Government, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are pleased and honoured to be part of this auspicious occasion on the launch of the 15 new Ashok Leyland Buses donated by the Government and people of India to the Government and people of Liberia. This donation is part of the outcome of the visit of our President, Her Excellency, Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, to India last year. These new buses follow the first batch of 25 buses contributed by India in 2010. Together these will contribute to our mass transit fleet and will help to immensely alleviate the public transportation problem confronting the greater commuting populace of Liberia. The Government of India had also provided after delivery service and training to some staff of the National Transit Authority for the smooth and efficient operation of the buses.

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Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the Government and people of India for their generosity in support of our nascent public transport system and assistance to Liberia's overall development agenda. The Ambassador of India to Liberia with residence in Abidjan, His Excellency Dinish Bhatia, and his predecessor, His Excellency Anil Sharan deserve special recognition for their efforts in insuring the delivery of these buses. The Honorary Consul General of India in Monrovia, Honourable Upjit Sachdeva Singh (whom we all affectionately refer to as Jeety played a pivotal role in the follow up actions for these buses for which we express our deepest appreciation.

The Board of Directors and Management of the National Transit Authority have worked untiringly and have demonstrated high degree of commitment for the development and efficiency of the transit system. We commend you for the

hard work and encourage you to continue to use your utmost effort for the advancement of the system.

Madam President, we want to thank you most sincerely for the very strong support you have given and continue to give the NTA and the transport sector. Your personal attention and support in seeking assistance for this sector has made all the difference in the improvement and progress we are seeing today in providing services to our people including students, elderly and those in uniform at affordable fares. Your unrelenting efforts to promote this system which directly affects the lives of the ordinary citizens is a manifestation of your true love for your people.

I thank you and may God bless Liberia