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**Executive Mansion's Response to Simeon Freeman's Rants to the President's
Address on the Economy.**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press, welcome:

I have called you here today to simply comment on a display of gross indiscipline and naked political gimmick by the political leader of the Movement for Progressive Change, Mr. Simeon Monseegar Freeman, in total pretense as a response to President Sirleaf's address to Liberians on the State of the Nation's economy.

In a democratic environment such as the one we have created in Liberia, it is normal that there will be comments and reactions to everything that comes from the Government, the Presidency included.

While we will always stand ready to accept these differences in thoughts and opinions, we will never compromise our right to also put in check misconduct and political- gambling as has always been the case with Mr. Simeon Freeman. We welcome his perspectives on the President's address in particular and on the overall State of the Nation's economy, but like to draw attention to the following comments that were more about politics and the usual show of disrespect and misconduct to the Office of the Presidency.

Firstly, Mr. Freeman analyses on the economy are dead wrong. The substantive discussions on the economy is out for a debate and some of our people charged directly with matters concerning the economy at the Executive Mansion are herewith throwing out the challenge to Mr. Freeman on the address in particular, and the State of the Nation's economy in general. With his consent, we can take advantage of the very platform he used on Monday and any other alternative pleasing and comfortable for him.

We know that Mr. Freeman as a former operative of the Taylor regime will never fall short of a flawed and baseless analysis and attribution of comparing the current very democratic and results-based government to not just the Taylor regime from which he amassed the wealth he brags about today, but to others he and his likes similarly condemned. We will therefore not be surprised were he to shower praises on the Sirleaf administration long after she leaves power; this is how most Liberians see one's worth when they leave the stage. Mr. Freeman suggests that President Sirleaf must apologize to some former leaders of Liberia, including his former boss Taylor. We would simply like to advise Mr. Freeman to stop living in the past and from being a constant victim of hallucination because the past that he so greatly benefitted from is gone and no amount of anger and hate from him can return those dark days.

It remains clear from Mr. Freeman's constant campaign about the President's resignation and/or impeachment that he recognizes the near non-existence of an empty talking machine call MPC which due to its empty nature has no faith in the democratic process, and that his only hope of imagining state power is through vain political agitation. Mr.

Freeman ought to know that President Sirleaf remains pleased with her governance record and will not get distracted by loud and empty talk from Freeman and his likes. He described his leader [President Sirleaf] as a loud talker and that there were no more lies to be told. How can such a young man speak so condescendingly about a leader aged enough to be his mother? Is it so difficult for Mr. Freeman to address issues of national concern without his usual acts of misconduct and indiscipline? In a talk show appearance that followed his so-called press conference today, he urged the President to attend classes under his tutelage and persistently referred to her as “Ellen” leaving more question about his moral upbringing.

This was a very comical statement from Mr. Freeman. How can a guy whose credentials are still being debated and questioned speak derogatorily about a leader whose credentials are replete and venerated? In fact, what is Mr. Freeman’s governance or work record that enabled him to make such a provocative comment to the President? Is something happening to him, or has his sense of simple reasoning and understanding being swallowed to the level of hate and anger that have overwhelmed him?

Mr. Freeman without a better sense of judgment questioned credible individuals and institutions who have given awards to the President, suggesting that the awards were bought. So the Americans were bought to give the Medal of Freedom Award? The Nobel Committee was also bought to award the President, and so on?

Mr. Freeman claimed that the Sirleaf Administration is the worst the country has ever had including that of his former boss. Mr. Freeman is seriously hallucinating and must act quickly to stabilize because take it or leave it, the Sirleaf Administration remains the best the country has ever had. Not my words, but words from serious entities such as the *Economist* magazine and dozens of credible global institutions that have said so and this is just the fact.

Finally, like I said from the beginning, our team is ready to engage Mr. Freeman on the more substantive issues surrounding the economy and the challenge is for him to grab. A hint to the wise is quiet sufficient!

I thank you.

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