

Remarks by H.E. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
Before Admitting Ambassador Ebenezer Ayodele Adigun
into The Humane Order Of African Redemption
C. Cecil Dennis Auditorium
Thursday, June 17, 2010

Mr. Ambassador:

As you complete your tour of duty as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I can say with great satisfaction that you have helped to reinforce the already excellent brotherly ties subsisting between our two countries and peoples.

I am therefore pleased to congratulate you for the zeal you have manifested in the discharge of your many duties, thereby earning the admiration and full support of the Government and people of the Republic of Liberia.

The long-standing brotherly ties which bind our two countries are deeply rooted in the commonality of views which we share on many issues of mutual concern, as well as our commitment to the promotion of the well-being of our peoples. Indeed, as regards our bilateral relations, Nigeria has been a true, trusted and indispensable ally from the inception of Liberia's civil crisis, up to the present time, through the continued deployment of Nigerian troops to various peacekeeping efforts undertaken by ECOWAS and the United Nations, as is presently the case with the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

Perhaps Nigeria's most significant contribution to Liberia is in the security sector, where it is not only helping to keep the peace but to build our capacity by training personnel of the Armed Forces of Liberia and assigning senior Nigerian Army officers to the AFL. The current Commanding General of our Armed Forces, Major-General Suraj Alao Abdurrahman, is a Nigerian.

Through its Technical Assistance Program, the Nigerian Government has accelerated the deployment of medical doctors and instructors to our institutions of higher learning as well as secondary schools. I want to thank you, Mr. Ambassador, for your personal initiatives and interest in ensuring that this aspect of our bilateral cooperation remains on course.

Your active involvement in activities, both of an official and private nature, has endeared you not only to officials of Government but to the many private citizens whom you and your dear wife have befriended in our country. You will be truly missed!

Mr. Ambassador:

You may be returning to Nigeria for retirement, but the records will show that during your tenure, our two countries have grown closer and our cooperation has intensified. I wish you and your family every success and Godspeed in your future endeavors.

TOAST

Excellencies;

Officials of Government;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please join me in a toast to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Mr. Goodluck Jonathan, and the brotherly people of Nigeria. Let us also drink a toast to Ambassador and Mrs. Adigun for their continued well-being and happiness after a productive tour of duty, which has contributed to the strengthening of brotherly ties between the Governments and peoples of our two countries.

Cheers!